

## Germany halts supplies to Libyan plant

BONN (R) — Germany said Monday it had stopped two firms supplying equipment for a suspected new chemical weapons factory in Libya similar to the Rabta plant that Western countries say makes poison gas. "We have no reason to believe these firms knew they were dealing with a chemical weapons plant," government spokesman Dieter Vogel told a regular news conference. He denied any prosecutions were planned on charges of illegal arms exports. "About six months ago we got indications that Libya was building a second chemical weapons factory and that many firms, mostly not from Germany, were involved in deliveries to build such a plant — West European firms," he said. The two implicated German firms were checked and found to be unaware they were working for a chemical weapons factory. The firms immediately agreed to Bonn's demands to stop any further deliveries. Mr. Vogel said. "One case involved tunnel-boring equipment and the other some cable — typical 'dual-use' products which could also have been used for other investments in Libya and were declared as such," Mr. Vogel said.

## Ing condole Alami's death and Hijazis

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday visited the Alami family to condole them over the death of Sheikh Saadedeen Al Alami, the mufti of Jerusalem and the West Bank who used away in the Holy City last week. King Hussein also visited the Khalil Al Rahmani Society to offer condolences on the death of former Jerusalem Governor Hani Khatib, who passed away in the Holy City last Sunday. The King also visited the Hijazi family to condole them over the death of the mother of Hani Hijazi.

## Jordanian wins equestrian event

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's Hani Isharat Monday won the first place in the Arab Gulf horse show championship held in Amman. Mr. Isharat won the first place in the equestrian championship in which 39 competitors took part. On Sunday, Isharat won the second place in the equestrian grand prix.

## HC urges protection in Palestinians

UBAI (R) — The 51-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Monday urged the Security Council to provide international protection for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories. An OIC statement said Israeli forces were "escalating acts of repression, terrorism and murder against Palestinians... is coincides with Israel's refusal to comply with the injunctions of resolution 799 which provides for the immediate return of all Palestinian (expellees) to their homes." It said OIC Secretary-General Hamid Al Ghabid "invites the U.N. Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities to take necessary measures to reduce Israel to halt its repressive actions in the occupied territories and to provide the necessary international protection for the Palestinian people."

## wedes in Iraq o be freed soon

OCKHOLM (R) — Three wedes jailed in Iraq since ptember could soon be set free, a wife of a Briton also imprisoned in Baghdad told Swedish media. "The release of the wedes is imminent," Julie Ride, wife of Paul Ride, one of two wedes, was quoted as saying in an interview with the Swedish newspaper Idag. Comments followed a visit earlier this month to the Abu al-Raiha prison near Baghdad where both groups are being held. Mr. Ride said several "unworthy" people at the prison had told her that her husband and Briton Michael Wainwright had taken over the cell currently occupied by the wedes. She told domestic news agency TT late today that she did not think that those three would in turn be moved to another cell.

## an: Island talks ust be with Sharjah

COSIA (R) — Iran said Sunday talks over the disputed island of Abu Musa jointly controlled by Tehran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), should be held with the emirate of Sharjah, rather than the UAE capital, Abu Dhabi. "The Islamic Republic of Iran will never compromise its national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and any kind of talks will be held with Sharjah, the basis of the 1971 accord," Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Vafaei was quoted as saying by a news agency. The 1971 agreement between Iran and the UAE, under which Tehran was to set up a garrison on the island, was signed a few days before the establishment of the UAE out of seven Gulf emirates.

## ice kill suspect in Delta

O (AP) — Police fatally shot a suspected extremist Monday arrested three others on their pick-up truck speed through a checkpoint outside a Delta town, a security official said. In another incident, arrested four militants in eastern Egypt after they killed a Christian family with mines.

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## Rights group accuses Israeli army of 'summary executions' of Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian human rights group accused the Israeli army Monday of carrying out "summary executions" of six Arabs in the occupied Gaza Strip in a two-week period.

Al Haq, the affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists in the occupied West Bank, said it had affidavits from witnesses to the three incidents refuting Israeli assertions the soldiers had been in danger.

"The evidence proves that Palestinians were executed whilst in the hands of the Israeli military authorities, having shown no resistance," said a statement from Al Haq. Only one had tried to flee, it said.

The army had no immediate comment.

The deaths, described by Al Haq as "summary executions," were part of a surge in violence since Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion of 115 Palestinians to Lebanon. Israelis have killed 44 Arabs in the period.

Al Haq said soldiers, accompanied by an Israeli in civilian clothes, handcuffed Yusef Al Ghoul, 30, inside a house in Gaza City on Jan. 27 and then took him to the middle of the street.

"One of the soldiers aimed his rifle at the detainee and shot him dead with a burst of bullets," the report said. "To ensure that the detainee had died, the person in civilian clothes likewise shot a number of times from his pistol into the body of the victim."

On Feb. 5, an army jeep stopped a local car, Al Haq said. A soldier opened the back door of the car and "shot a round of bullets" at three young men. That soldier and another then fired in the air, opened the front door and shot the two Palestinians in the front, it said.

Three Palestinians died and two were wounded, Al Haq said. On Feb. 10, four masked Palestinian youths were writing slogans on a wall in Nuseirat refugee camp when four men in civilian clothes approached, Al Haq said.

One youth with a sword was hauled to the ground, the human rights group said. The undercover soldiers shot dead one youth with an axe who was fleeing from a distance of three metres, without trying to arrest him, an Al Haq spokesman said.

"They then released a burst of bullets into the body of the first youth who had been apprehended," Al Haq said, adding that both those killed were under the age of 16.

On Sunday, Israeli soldiers fatally shot a 16-year-old Palestinian and wounded another eight, the army and Arab reports said. Amjad Masoud Hassan Mashaki sustained a gunshot wound in the head after troops opened fire when their jeep was allegedly stoned in Talousa village near Nablus in the West Bank, the army said.

"Soldiers shouted at them to stop and when they didn't, they shot at them," an army statement said.

Mashaki was the 1,038th Palestinian killed by an Israeli during the five-year uprising. Seven other Palestinians aged 15 to 35 were shot when troops opened fire in Dureij refugee camp in the Gaza Strip Sunday, Arab reports said.

Israel's high court in a rare ruling Monday barred the army from demolishing an Arab-owned house in the occupied West Bank but said the building may be partially sealed, the item news agency reported.

## Expulsion crisis should not derail Mideast peace talks — Abu Sharif

TUNIS (Agencies) — The crisis sparked by the Dec. 17 Israeli expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians to Lebanon should not derail the Middle East peace talks, a top adviser to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat was quoted as saying in an interview published Monday.

Bassam Abu Sharif, who often floats ideas for the PLO leader, was quoted as saying by the Tunisian newspaper Al Bayan that the expulsions were a "side issue" that should not be linked to the talks.

"There should be no link between the return of the expellees and the continuation of the peace talks," Mr. Abu Sharif was quoted as saying. "There are four million Palestinians who were expelled from their land. I want to emphasise that this is only a side issue."

The Central committee of the PLO's mainstream Fatah movement met Sunday to "reassess the situation in the occupied territories and the issue of the expellees," a PLO spokesman said on condition of anonymity. The meetings were expected to continue Monday. No final communiqué was expected.

Israel's expulsion of the Palestinians to southern Lebanon on Dec. 17 in retaliation for the killing of six Israeli soldiers by Islamic groups has stalled the U.S.-led peace talks for two months.

The Palestinians, accused of belonging to the Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements, have been living in a freezing tent camp outside Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon. Lebanon refuses to accept them.

The United Nations Security Council originally ordered the Jewish state to immediately repatriate all the Palestinians, but accepted a U.S.-brokered compromise Friday where Israel can take back 101 now and the rest by year's end.

The PLO and Arab states have denounced the compromise and demanded that the Security Council enforce its resolutions against Israel with the same vigor used against Iraq in the Gulf war.

Mr. Abu Sharif's comments were the first by a senior PLO figure indicating that the organisation, which guides the Palestinian delegation to the talks, will not boycott the negotiations over the expulsions.

"In my opinion, we should not link the return of the (expellees) with the continuation of the peace process," Mr. Abu Sharif said, adding, "if we are keen on the future of our homeland."

Official PLO spokesmen last week denied that similar statements by Mr. Abu Sharif reflected official policy. The denials may have been linked to the fact

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An Israeli soldier Monday guards Palestinians rounded up after an attack on an Israeli in occupied Jerusalem (AFP photo)

## Senate votes to curb law covering journalists' source of information

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Monday decided that only courts of law can force journalists to reveal their sources of information "during trial of criminal cases and to protect state security, prevent crime and attain justice."

After a lengthy debate of article 6 of the draft press and publication law, the Senate voted in favour of a motion by Senator and former Prime Minister Mudar Badran that sources should be revealed only under a court order and "not to the judiciary" as proposed by the Senate's Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Badran made his proposal after the Senate established that the judiciary sought to include the general prosecutor who, according to the committee's amendment of the article, among the officials empowered to demand that journalists divulge their sources during investigations.

Mr. Badran said that only a court of law can decide whether a case on trial relates to state security or whether the divulgence of a journalist's source can help prevent crime or achieve justice. Mr. Badran's proposal received the support of the majority of the 40-member Senate.

During its three-hour session, the Senate endorsed the recommendations of its Judiciary Committee on articles seven to 16 of the 59-Article draft legislation.

## Exiles say Christopher tour doomed unless they return

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon (R) — Palestinian expellees said Monday a Middle East tour by the U.S. secretary of state this week was doomed to failure unless Israel allowed them to go back to the occupied territories.

The exiles, stuck in a snow-whipped South Lebanon area since being banished by Israel on Dec. 17, also urged the Arab League to block a U.N. bid to sidestep their crisis.

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## Iraq assails U.N. sanctions committee

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq protested to the United Nations Monday that its sanctions committee was preventing the Iraqi people from obtaining the daily necessities of life. "Iraq rejects and protests the method of work of the sanctions committee," Foreign Minister Muhammad Saeed Al Sahaf said in a letter to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali reported by the Iraqi News Agency (INA). Mr. Sahaf sharply criticised the committee for what he said was its repeated opposition to the import of certain items to Iraq. He said the U.S. and British representatives opposed "most of the offers submitted to the committee though they fall within the scope of the basic daily life requirements of the Iraqi people." The United States and Britain recently turned down offers from Jordanian companies to send Iraq textiles, wood and electrical appliances, Mr. Sahaf added. He said the committee had approved some of the rejected items in the past. Mr. Sahaf said Japan joined the United States and Britain in rejecting an offer to supply Iraq with 10,000 exhaust fans. He said he hoped the new U.S. administration under President Bill Clinton would react favourably to Iraq's offer of dialogue.

## Israeli killed in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An unknown assailant killed an Israeli man and wounded a woman at a bus stop early Monday before fleeing to an adjacent neighbourhood, Israeli police said.

The stabbings occurred at 6:20 a.m. (0420 GMT) in the Jewish neighbourhood of East Talpote near the city's U.N. headquarters. Police sealed off two neighbouring Arab villages while detaining suspects.

Police said the dead man was 28 years old.

A Jewish woman, 30, was stabbed in the stomach, leg and head. Hospital officials said she was in good condition after surgery. Earlier reports incorrectly said she was pregnant.

The hospital said the man's father, 63, injured his head in a fall trying to help the others. He was not stabbed.

Angry Jews took to the streets carrying protest banners and shouting that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government had failed to protect them. Police urged residents not to take "revenge."

Police said that at about 6:10 a.m. (0400 GMT), an "Arab" attacked without warning in the area of Armon Hanaziv, bordering East Jerusalem.

Moshe Mizrahi, who was fell struggling with the assailant, said the man shouted something in Arabic but Mizrahi said he could not understand it.

The assailant, described as about 25 years old, was seen fleeing towards the adjacent Arab neighbourhoods of Jabal Mukaber and Sur Baher by a bus driver who fired two shots in his direction, police said.

"We imposed a curfew on the two (Arab) neighbourhoods in order to find the assailant," a police spokesman said.

## Israeli-allied gunmen order villagers to leave their homes

TYRE (AP) — Israeli militia allies in southern Lebanon Monday warned villagers living near strongholds of resistance fighters to clear out, and threatened to destroy one village if residents cooperate with the guerrillas.

Voice of the South radio, run by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA), warned all villagers living near the strongholds to leave their homes until further notice.

"In view of increasing attacks by fundamentalist guerrillas, we advise all villagers living near Hizbollah strongholds to leave their homes until further notice," the radio said.

The radio also warned villagers living in Majdal Salim, on the edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in southern Lebanon, against cooperating with the Iranian-backed Hizbollah.

"Such cooperation will result in the destruction of Majdal Salim and the exodus of its population," said the radio. The village has an estimated 1,500 inhabitants.

Villagers did not appear to immediately heed the warnings, which normally follow deaths among the SLA and Israeli army from guerrilla attacks. Such warnings sometimes precede Israeli air raids or other attacks.

The violence comes on the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's Middle East tour to revive peace talks stalled by Israel's expulsion of about 400 Palestinians to southern Lebanon.

Lebanese security sources reported earlier that Israeli troops and the SLA fired machineguns at suspected Hizbollah positions in woods and olive groves near the "security zone."

Hizbollah guerrillas launched attacks on the "security zone" Saturday on forward SLA posts.

away with anyone associated with Islamic extremists trying to topple the year-old regime.

Gen. Nezzar, one of the five committee members, is considered the regime's strongman. A booby-trapped car exploded Saturday morning in the path of his car as he travelled to work. Neither he nor his entourage was injured but the explosion damaged 100 metres roadway, witnesses said.

Gen. Nezzar was shown on state television Sunday night in a working session, sequences apparently intended to dispel any rumours that he failed to survive.

The FIS warned "the junta and those supporting it" of the "revolt of the Muslim Algerian people," and threatened more attacks "if God wills it."

Islamic extremists have targeted security forces in hundreds of attacks since a state of emergency was declared Feb. 9, 1992. The attacks are aimed at avenging the thwarted victory by the FIS in

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## Gulf states are key market for world arms merchants

By Ashraf Fouad  
Reuters

**ABU DHABI** — With the end of the cold war the Gulf Arab oil states, whose vulnerability was laid bare by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, have quickly developed into the most lucrative market for the world's arms merchants.

More than 350 weapons manufacturers from 34 countries had their wares on display at the opening Sunday in Abu Dhabi of the Gulf region's largest arms bazaar, the first International Defence Exhibition (IDEX 93).

Two years after the Gulf war, the Gulf Arabs are rushing to modernise and expand their defences despite curbs on spending due to cheaper oil, their main source of income.

The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies says the Arab oil states concluded it was wiser for them to rely for security on massive arms purchases and the protection of outside powers rather than on uncertain regional alliances.

As a result, the region offers money-spinning opportunities especially to arms makers in the United States, Russia, Britain and France who have been badly hit by defence cuts brought on by the demise of the Soviet Union.

A private U.S. group that monitors the arms trade, the Safeworld Foundation, said last year Middle East states placed firm orders worth \$42.8 billion in the two years to July 1992.

The figure includes major non-Gulf buyers like Israel, Egypt and Turkey but the

lion's share of \$25.6 billion of contracts was obtained from Saudi Arabia, of which two-thirds were won by U.S. firms, it added.

Saudi Arabia has since signed further big contracts with the United States and Britain and its current arms kitty is estimated at \$5 billion a year.

Kuwait plans to buy an estimated \$15 billion worth of arms by the end of the decade and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was expected to spend around \$10 billion by the year 2000.

IDEX 93 opened with the UAE awarding a \$3.5 billion deal to France for 390 battle tanks against tough competition from its Gulf war allies the United States and Britain.

In addition to the manufacturers, government ministers from France, Britain, Russia, Iran and Italy came to the Abu Dhabi exhibition to help boost sales.

Immediately after the six-week war that drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait, the Gulf Arab states sought to integrate the defences of all six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council — Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

But no concrete measures have emerged from two years of negotiations and most Gulf states have meanwhile signed defence pacts with the United States, Britain and France.

This has led to muted criticisms about the usefulness of the arms spending spree in some Gulf media.

A prominent economist, Jassem Al Saadoun of Kuwait, was quoted in the newspaper Al Khaleej Sunday as saying

that stockpiling arms was "not the same as military power."

He said that when Kuwait was invaded by Iraq, 75 per cent of the available weapons remained unused in storehouses.

Gulf-based diplomats say threats — real or perceived — surround the Gulf states on all sides.

Iraq, despite its Gulf war defeat, is seen as a serious threat so long as President Saddam Hussein remains in power.

The wealthy but thinly populated Gulf Arab states also feel threatened by the poverty that surrounds them. "A poor man has no need to burglar alarms ... it is the millionaire who buys them and hires security firms for his protection," one diplomat said.

Non-Arab Iran across the Gulf remains a major worry despite an improvement in ties after it stoutly opposed Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Iran upset its neighbours by reviving a dispute with the UAE over strategic Gulf islands last year. Its brand of radical Islam causes unease although this has mellowed since President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani came to power four years ago.

Iran's purchase of a Russian submarine, for example, has sent the other Gulf states scurrying for naval anti-submarine capabilities, military sources in the region say.

Paradoxically Iranian Defence Minister Akbar Turkkan was among those who came to Abu Dhabi for the show, saying Tehran can offer a wide range of weapons at competitive cost.



Women from the West Kabul district of Afshar Monday show a copy of the Koran hit by a bullet during fighting and looting in the area (AFP photo)

## Kuwaiti emir tightens penalties for corruption

**KUWAIT (R)** — The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, has approved a law stiffening penalties for embezzlement and giving parliament the right to monitor state investments, the government gazette said Monday.

It said "law number one of 1993, regarding the protection of public money" also required the state and companies in which the state had at least a 25 per cent stake to report all investment transactions to government auditing authorities within 10 days.

The gazette said the head of the auditing authority could extend the 10-day deadline in some cases.

Parliament drafted the law and approved it last month in response to widespread concern over losses of \$5 billion from Kuwaiti investments in Spain.

Under the law, which covers crimes committed abroad, the maximum penalty for the most serious category of deliberate misuse of public funds is raised to life imprisonment from 10 years and the minimum penalty to seven years from a fine.

Offenders who fall under the most serious category would be ordered to repay to the state twice the amount of any public money missing as a result of their actions, the gazette said.

The penalty for a less serious category, including negligent misuse of public funds and the delaying of reports of investment decisions to state audit authorities, would be a maximum of three years and a minimum of a fine.

The law gives the attorney general the authority to confiscate the assets of fraud suspects.

## Afghan fighters loot homes during ceasefire

**KABUL (R)** — Islamic guerrillas Monday took advantage of a tottering ceasefire marking the fourth anniversary of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan to loot the homes of Kabul residents.

In the shell-shattered western suburb of Afshar, government Mujahedeen fighters picked through deserted homes and shops and carried away refrigerators, carpets and blankets.

The rumble of rockets and artillery shook the area in the morning and machinegun fire erupted around the abandoned Russian embassy in the south despite a ceasefire announced by the Islamic government and its radical Hezb-e-Islami opponents.

Pakistani peace broker, retired Lieutenant-General Hamid Gul, shuttled between President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Hezb-e-Islami chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar to try to transform Sunday's temporary ceasefire into a permanent truce.

It was unclear who was involved in the morning's sporadic shooting and the city was comparatively quiet after four weeks of fierce battles that have killed hundreds of civilians and injured more than 5,000. One hospital reported 14 injured.

In the west of Kabul, where the army has made substantial advances against the Shiite Hezb-e-Hekmatyar, a government Mujahedeen fighter was leaving with an oil heater strapped to his back.

"This is good looting," one smiling soldier said as he pushed a cart loaded with a refrigerator and several tables.

One fighter grinned sheepishly when his companion said the cart they were carrying "is not really ours." Another drove a van loaded with blankets out of the nearby state orphanage.

Residents fleeing the area, devastated by months of fighting since the Mujahedeen took power from the Soviet-installed government last April, told of robberies, looting and killings of Shiite residents by majority Sunni government troops.

"They came into my house and took everything," wept one woman who said her three brothers had been killed.

The guerrillas said they were retaliating for similar looting by Shiite Mujahedeen.

The Hezb-e-Wahdat looted our areas," said the soldier pushing the cart. "So we are doing the same."

Kabul, which emerged relatively unscathed at the end of the 14-year war of resistance, has been the scene of some of the fiercest rocket and artillery bombardments of the war between rival Mujahedeen parties since last April.



Gulbuddin Hekmatyar

Both Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Hekmatyar declared ceasefires to mark the departure of the last Soviet soldiers, who crossed the Oxus River from Afghanistan to Tajikistan on the afternoon of Feb. 15.

"Look at these Muslims," scoffed one angry resident of Afshar pointing to a group of Mujahedeen loaded with booty.

Some soldiers were looking for Shiites, many of whom come from the central Hazarajat region. Both Sunnis and Shiites have reported alleged atrocities and tit-for-tat kidnappings.

One Mujahedeen fighter armed with a sabre stopped the car of a foreign reporter and asked: "Have you any hazaras with you?"

In the social sciences institute, the former headquarters of Hezb-e-Wahdat leader Abdul Ali Mazari that was taken by the government late last week, soldiers showed the bodies of eight young Hezb-e-Wahdat fighters laid out outside.

"There are many more bodies around the hills," one commander said.

In Mr. Mazari's former office, portraits of the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had been slashed, bullets were scattered on the floor and Mujahedeen were rifling through medicine supplies.

**Arabs reported killed**

Nine Arabs fighting with the guerrillas in Afghanistan have been killed in a clash in Kabul and 15 injured in the fighting were brought to Pakistan Monday for treatment, sources said in Peshawar, Pakistan.

The casualties occurred in a clash with government troops near Kabul's Bala Hissar Fort, they said.

Among those killed were a Palestinian, a Saudi, an Algerian, a Syrian and a Kuwaiti. The dead were buried south of Kabul.

The injured were taken to Peshawar's Al Fozan Hospital, run by a Kuwait aid group, and to an Afghan-run hospital.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iranian ayatollah arrested — opposition

**PARIS (R)** — A senior Iranian religious leader, once designated as successor to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, has been arrested after denouncing the country's current spiritual leader, ex-President Abolhasan Bani Sadr said Monday. Mr. Bani Sadr, who lives in exile in France, said in a statement that Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, one of Ayatollah Khomeini's closest companions during the revolution that ousted the Shah in 1979, was arrested Saturday at his home in the city of Qom, south of Tehran, and taken to the capital. The arrest followed an attack by armed men on Ayatollah Montazeri's house last Friday in which three of his aides were killed, Mr. Bani Sadr said. His office said the information came from aides to Ayatollah Montazeri. Mr. Bani Sadr said Ayatollah Montazeri came under attack after denouncing the current spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and the head of the assembly of experts which examines legislation, Ayatollah Ali Meshkini. He said Ayatollah Montazeri described them as agents of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency who had plotted to remove him as Ayatollah Khomeini's successor. Ayatollah Khomeini died in 1989. Ayatollah Meshkini responded by attacking Ayatollah Montazeri in a sermon at prayers last Friday, saying he had been removed because he was "mentally deficient."

### Yemen's judges strike over lack of protection

**SANAA (R)** — Yemeni judges have gone on strike to protest against the government's inability to protect them from a spate of recent attacks, the judges' union has said. The general assembly for the judicial forum said in a statement released Sunday night that judges began an open-ended strike Saturday following an attack on the head of the local court in Khairi, 80 kilometres east of Sanaa. It said the wife of Judge Ahmad Abdul Khaleq Hanash was killed after the couple were shot at in the night. It did not give further details. The statement said there had been 12 previous attacks on judges, but did not mention any other killings. "In view of the repeated requests from judicial authorities that they be provided with protection...the general assembly has decided to stop work from Saturday until firm action is taken against such attacks," the statement said. There have been no media reports about the attacks which appear to be part of a spate of lawlessness in the past few months that has included the kidnapping of foreigners, cost of living riots and fundamentalist attacks on foreign targets.

### Aoun in new residence outside Paris

**MELUN, France (AP)** — Lebanese General Michel Aoun, spending a five-year exile from his country in France, discreetly moved from his sumptuous Marseille residence Monday to a village east of Paris. A cortege of four cars and a motorcycle preceded Gen. Aoun into the vast wooded grounds of his new home in the village of Haute Maison, near the town of Cressy-la-Chapelle, about 50 kilometres from the capital in the Seine-et-Marne region. Gen. Aoun had travelled north from Marseille in a military plane. The house reportedly belongs to a friend of Gen. Aoun. A delegation of local officials recently lodged a protest against the arrival of Gen. Aoun, but were given assurances his presence would in no way interfere with daily life of the area. The foreign ministry recently confirmed rumours that Gen. Aoun, in France since Aug. 30, 1991, would change residences at his request. Gen. Aoun, 57, headed a Christian military government in Lebanon from September 1988 until Oct. 13, 1990, when he was removed from power following a military offensive by Syrian and Lebanese forces. Fearing for his life, he took refuge in the French embassy where he spent 321 days. He was condemned to five years exile by the Lebanese state and, after lengthy negotiations, was taken in by France. Gen. Aoun was living under heavy protection in a villa on the Corniche Kennedy in Marseille, guarded by Crack French troops, riot police and a patrol boat that plied the waters in front of his house. Specialists have estimated the cost to France of his guarded life at 100,000 francs (about \$10,500) per day.

### Greenpeace criticises Turkish nuclear plan

**ISTANBUL (R)** — The environmentalist group Greenpeace Monday criticised the Turkish government's plan to build a nuclear power plant at Akkuyu on the Mediterranean coast. "The declared intention to build a nuclear power station in Akkuyu near Mersin could be catastrophic not only for Turkey but for the region as a whole," a Greenpeace statement said. "This development would not only be a danger in itself but also help set a trend which will make it easier for other countries in the region to follow," the statement said. In January, Turkey's Electricity authority (TEK) announced plans to build two 1,066-Megawatt nuclear power plants by the year 2010, one at Akkuyu and the other possibly at Sinop on the Black Sea coast. TEK said the nuclear plants would help meet electricity shortages and be part of an ambitious project to quadruple Turkey's annual generating capacity to 350 billion kilowatt hours by the year 2010. Turkey is expected to begin building the Akkuyu plant in 1996. Plans to build a smaller nuclear plant at Akkuyu existed in the late 1970s but were abandoned after the 1980 military coup. Greenpeace said Western European countries were shutting down nuclear plants and scrapping projects since the Chernobyl disaster. "In view of the unpopularity the nuclear industry has earned in the developed world, it is now looking for markets in the developing world," the statement said.

### Velayati heads for Latin America

**NICOSIA (AP)** — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati left Tehran for Brazil Monday to start a week-long trip also taking him to Cuba and Mexico, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. Mr. Velayati headed an economic and political delegation and will discuss bilateral relations and cooperation with Brazilian officials. IRNA reported in a brief dispatch monitored by the Associated Press in Nicosia. A meeting of the Iran-Brazil joint economic commission will be held during Mr. Velayati's visit to Brasilia, IRNA said. No other details were disclosed.

## U.S. firm bags \$300m UAE deal

**ABU DHABI (AP)** — The U.S. Westinghouse Electric Corporation has won a \$300 million contract to install a command-and-control system for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) air defence network, the Defence Ministry announced Monday.

The Pittsburgh-based company beat another U.S. firm, the Hughes Aircraft Company of Los Angeles, for the contract, which is the first phase of a major upgrading of the seven-emirate federation's command-and-control system.

Jamal Sowaidi, the Defence Ministry spokesman, said that Westinghouse agreed to plow back some of the money into a joint venture in the emirates in the UAE's offset programme. He declined to give details.

The Westinghouse contract was the second major deal announced by the UAE at a

major arms exhibition, one of the biggest ever staged in the region, which opened here Sunday.

France's Giat industries won a \$3.5 billion contract Sunday for 390 LeClerc main battle tanks, with 56 support and recovery vehicles, part of a massive armour upgrade by the Gulf Cooperation Council states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar.

More than 350 companies from 34 countries are attending the five-day exhibition, and military sources said other major deals are in the pipeline amid a region wide arms buildup by the GCC states following the 1991 Gulf war.

Military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the new UAE defence command-and-control system will likely be integrated with those of other Gulf states.

Hughes won a \$92 million contract to build a ground-based early warning system for Kuwait; late last year. It will replace part of the system Kuwait lost in the Gulf war.

Westinghouse, the world's largest producer of advanced radar sensor and system technology, will start construction of the UAE network in the next few weeks.

The whole system, with two more phases, will take four years to complete.

It will link air bases, radar installations and communications networks into a centralised system for surveillance of aircraft entering UAE airspace.

The emirates' air defences include Crotale surface-to-air missiles sold to the UAE by France last year.

## Israeli general sees Iran posing non-conventional threat

**TEL AVIV (AP)** — An Israeli general has urged his country and the international community to "do everything" to prevent Iran from obtaining nonconventional weapons.

Gen. Zev Livi, the head of a special command unit appointed in the wake of the Gulf war, said on army radio Sunday that the Israeli public was under increasing threat of attack due also to arms buildups in Syria as well as Libya and Algeria.

Asked about newspaper reports predicting Iran could have an atomic bomb by 1999, Gen. Livi said that Israel was "following all the developments, also in countries farther away such as Iran."

"Israel and the international community must do everything,

and only recently such means were proven against Iraq, to prevent Iran from arming itself with nonconventional weapons," Gen. Livi added.

He also said that "in any future war, if one happens, the home front must be seen as a potential target."

Gen. Livi was appointed to his post after the 1991 war by U.S. allies against Iraq, when Israelis were on a chemical attack alert because of repeated warnings by Iraq that it would use such weapons.

In all 39 Scud missiles were fired at Israel during that war, all tipped with conventional warheads.

**Iran vows to finish**  
President Hashemi Rafsanjani

of Iran has pledged to complete a nuclear power plant abandoned by the German firm building it when the Shah of Iran was overthrown in 1979, state-run Iranian radio reported Monday.

Mr. Rafsanjani, inspecting the site Sunday of the Dushehr nuclear power plant in southern Iran, said that Tehran remains determined to put the facility into operation with or without German firms, said the radio.

Iran will attempt to obtain the resources and equipment necessary to complete the plant conforming to international standards the radio quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying.

Germany's Kraftwerk Union, a subsidiary of Siemens, began building the facility in 1975 as part of the late Shah Mohammad

Reza Pahlavi's ambitious nuclear programme.

The project, which was planned to have two 13,000-megawatt reactors, was abandoned after the Islamic revolution when the plant was about 80 per cent completed. The uncompleted plant was bombed by Iraqi warplanes during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Tehran Radio reported last year that Iran had opened discussions with China on building nuclear power stations. 603000

Iran embarked on a huge effort to upgrade its national electric grid, including hydro and oil fired generating plants.

The exiled Iranian opposition group, Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, accuses the plant of being a secret facility in a programme to develop nuclear weapons.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 7311-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Michael Vadiant  
18:30 La Famille Ramda  
19:00 News in French  
19:15 Reportage  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Perfect Strangers  
21:10 The Dirtwater Dynasty  
22:00 News in English  
22:20 Big Man

### PRAYER TIMES

04:56 Fajr  
06:14 (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
11:50 Dhuhr  
14:57 'Asr  
17:26 Maghreh  
18:37 Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetfish, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637705  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrence Church Tel. 622666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 626543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 752661  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 682208  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 682208  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823024, 654932  
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691  
Church of the Redeemer Tel. 636526

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
Slight rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be light and variable changing to southeasterly moderate to strong, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman 0/11  
Aqaba 2/19  
Deserts 2/18  
Jordan Valley 3/18

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Walid Kisiwani 620441  
Dr. Abbas Al Hakoun 885446  
Dr. Ghad Abu Sheikha 752405  
Dr. Adnan Al Zughoul 68140  
First pharmacy 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy 778336  
Al Asma pharmacy 670255  
Nabrook pharmacy 626762  
Al Salam pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644943  
Shirwan pharmacy 637660  
Nabrook pharmacy 626762  
Nabrook pharmacy 661176  
Water and Sewerage 897467  
Complaints 787111  
Amman Municipality 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls 010230  
Central Amman Telephone 623101  
Repairs 661101  
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television 773111

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate 630341  
Rescue 685446  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 891228  
Blood Bank 775121  
Highway Police 843402  
Traffic Police 896390  
Public Security Department 63021  
Prison Complaints 603800  
Water and Sewerage 897467  
Complaints 787111  
Amman Municipality 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls 010230  
Central Amman Telephone 623101  
Repairs 661101  
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television 773111

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khadija Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6  
Al-Khad Maternity, J. Amn 64241/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Palestine, Shamsi 636140  
Shamsi Hospital 664171/4  
Shamsi Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/71  
Al-Amal, Abdali 664164/6  
Islamic, Al-Mahajreen 77101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
06:30 Dhahran (RJ)  
06:30 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)  
06:45 Amman (RJ)  
06:45 Karak, Doha (RJ)  
06:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
06:45 London (RJ)  
06:45 Cairo (RJ)  
06:45 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)  
06:45 Amman (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:15 Larnaca, Vienna (OS)  
17:45 Dubai (AZ)  
01:00 Bucharest (RO)

#### DEPARTURES

##### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Amman (RJ)  
07:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
11:25 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)  
11:30 Paris, Rome (RJ)  
11:30 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
11:30 London (RJ)  
12:40 Cairo (RJ)  
12:40 Jeddah (RJ)  
21:00 Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)  
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.  
Apples 700/500  
Banana (Mekamur) 700/700  
Banana (Mekamur) 640/640  
Beans 620/420  
Cabbage 160/100  
Carrot 250/180  
Cauliflower 210/160  
Cucumber (large) 150/100  
Cucumber (small) 300/250  
Eggplant 320/220  
Garlic 650/550  
Mint 240/180  
Lemon 180/120  
Marrow (large) 220/180  
Marrow (small) 440/380  
Milk 80  
Onion (dry) 210/180  
Onion (green) 400/350  
Orange 400/350  
Pepper (hot) 380/320  
Pepper (sweet) 180/120  
Potato 250/200  
Tomato 120/80  
Spinach 240/180



# U.S. experts say Clinton team should play more active role in peace talks

By Stephanie Genkin  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his Middle East tour to help start the stalled Arab-Israeli peace talks, the Arab world is anxiously awaiting a sign from Washington indicating the direction of the Clinton administration's policies in the region.

The Arabs, however, should look for major policy adjustments on the Middle East under Clinton's administration which, according to two American experts on the region, would be similar to former president George Bush's approach to the region.

President of the Middle East Institute Robert Keeley and Vice President Paul Hare expect U.S. President Bill Clinton to continue the policies of his predecessor. But Mr. Keeley believes the new U.S. administration should take a more active role in the region if it wants to push forward the Arab-Israeli peace process which was brokered by the former administration.

According to Mr. Keeley, a former U.S. ambassador to Jordan, there has been no agreement regarding the peace process, indicating that Clinton and his team will pick up where the Bush administration left off.

Fearing that all parties concerned are growing impatient with the 15-month peace talks, due to lack of progress, Mr. Keeley believes that the new administration should take a more active role.

"Personally I wish it would get more directly involved than the last administration," he said.

Although Mr. Keeley does not advocate U.S. participation in the negotiations, he believes that the U.S. role should go beyond procedural responsibilities.

"I would like to see the U.S. propose formulae on its own," Mr. Keeley explained, adding that he did not favour applying pressure to any one party to the negotiations.

While Mr. Hare admitted that it is difficult from the outside to determine at what point the U.S. should be more actively engaged, he pointed to the history of peace-making in the Middle East as a reason for the U.S. to increase its involvement when the negotiations resume. ("The success of Kissinger's shuttle diplomacy, Camp David and the process leading to Madrid were the result of American commitment to the process," explained Mr. Hare.

According to Mr. Keeley, the secretary of state's visit to the region, scheduled to begin Thursday, is two fold: to revive the peace talks and to seek advice from key Arab leaders as to how to deal with Iraq.

However, both agreed that they are not overly optimistic about the advice Mr. Christopher will receive during his scheduled meetings with Arab leaders.

"The Arabs are usually creative in proposing solutions," explained Mr. Keeley, and added that he has not heard of any scheme to deal with Iraq.

Both of the Middle East Institute executives agree that President Saddam Hussein's most recent overtures to tone down the conflict with the U.S. will be looked upon with mistrust in Washington.

"Everything he (Saddam Hussein) says will be looked at with caution and great scepticism. There is a problem of confidence in his word," said Mr. Hare, a former U.S. ambassador to Zambia.

The U.S. policy regarding Iraq will stay on its present course, said Mr. Hare, "unless there is something alluring. I'm not sure what that could be," he added.

The Washington-based Middle East Institute, established in 1946, is a non-partisan organisation working to increase the American public's awareness and understanding of the region.

Mr. Keeley and Mr. Hare are concluding a 4-week visit to the region in an effort to prepare the institute's programming for the upcoming year.

## Jordan's first oesophageal hiatus hernia surgery finds patient in good condition.

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An Oesophageal hiatus hernia operation, the first of its kind in Jordan and the region, was conducted by a team of surgeons, led by Khalaf Raqqad, at the Queen Alia Military Hospital in Amman.

The patient was reported in good condition. Dr. Raqqad told the Jordan Times that the 55-year-old Jordanian woman who underwent the operation had been suffering from inflammation of the gullet for 10 years but she will now be completely cured after the four-hour surgery which was conducted Sunday.

He said the patient will be kept under surveillance for three to four days before she can be discharged from hospital, because this kind of surgery has not been done before in the country.

Dr. Raqqad said a surgical laparoscope was inserted into the abdomen of the woman during the operation, one of the most critical and sensitive ever to be conducted in this field.

Following the success of this operation, Dr. Raqqad said other operations on the intestines, the gullet and the stomach could be conducted using the laparoscope.

He added that he led a team of hospital surgeons in two surgeries for the excision of the uterus using the same technique.

He said he was assisted by Dr. Hassan Malkawi, Dr. Mohammad Daboubi, Dr. Mohammad Hammad and Dr. Hanan Rihani in the two operations.

Dr. Raqqad was assisted Sunday by Dr. Hanan Rihani and Dr. Ahmad Arabiyat.

## International fraud meeting addresses growing problem

AMMAN (Petra) — Commercial fraud has become complicated and inter-related to the extent that it now requires coordinated efforts by concerned organisations and nations to combat it, Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Marwan Awad announced Monday.

Addressing a day-long meeting held at the Amman Chamber of Commerce on maritime crime and international commercial fraud, Mr. Awad said the victims of such crimes pin their hopes on and are closely cooperating with the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) to curtail these incidents.

The meeting, dealing with ways to combat international trading fraud and piracy on the high seas, was organised by IMB in cooperation with the Jordanian Shipping Agents Association (SAA) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

The convening now of such meeting assumes significance in view of the growing number of international fraud cases and maritime crimes reported recently, Mr. Awad said.

He urged all concerned nations to facilitate the work of IMB and to introduce laws and regulations to strictly deal with such crimes.

SAA President Tawfiq Kawa said in an address, the victims in Amman was the first of its kind to be organised in the Kingdom.

International trading fraud committed by professionals is difficult to trace since the perpetrators involved assume senior positions in banks, insurance companies, chambers of commerce, shipping lines and other international organisations, Mr. Kawa said.

He said that acts of piracy, which began off the coast of Algeria, have now reached the Red Sea, threatening inter-Arab trade.

The meeting, attended by international and regional experts in maritime transport and trade, reviewed a number of studies and research papers dealing with maritime fraud.

According to Mr. Kawa, Jordanian banks, insurance companies and merchants have sustained huge losses as a result of such crimes.

As recently as last December, Reuters reported that a Thai cargo ship was attacked by pirates who killed the ship's engineer and wounded its captain and two crew members.

Mr. Kawa said the ship had just left Aqaba with a cargo of phosphate bound for Sri Lanka and was attacked in international waters off the Yemeni coast.



His Majesty King Hussein confers the Istiklal Medal of the First Order on the speaker of N. Korea's assembly Yang Hyung Sop Monday (Petra photo)

## King accepts N. Korean invitation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received Monday at the Royal Court Speaker of the Korean People's Assembly Yang Hyung Sop and the delegation accompanying him.

At the meeting, King Hussein stressed the need to enhance Jordanian-North Korean relations and cooperation in issues of common interest.

The King also reiterated Jordan's commitment to defending "the noble causes of freedom, democracy, human rights and the interests of the world nations."

His Majesty accepted an invitation extended to him by North Korean President Kim Il-Sung to visit Korea.

The head of the delegation, which arrived in Amman Friday on a week-long visit to Jordan, conveyed to King Hussein the greetings of the Korean president and his appreciation of the King's policies and services for the causes of peace, Third World countries, democracy and human rights.

Mr. Hyung Sop also commended Jordan's achievements under King Hussein.

At the end of the meeting the King conferred the Al Istiklal Medal of the First Order upon Mr. Hyung Sop.

The meeting was attended by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, Lower House First Deputy Speaker Mohammad Adoub Al Zaben and the North Korean ambassador in Amman.

On Monday Mr. Hyung Sop and the accompanying delegation also visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

Mr. Hyung Sop, accompanied by Mr. Zaben, was briefed on the establishment of the RSS and its national role.

He also visited the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) where he met with University President Kamel Ajlouni.

The two discussed scopes of cooperation between JUST and North Korean universities in academic and technical fields.

Dr. Ajlouni briefed Mr. Hyung Sop and the accompanying delegation on the establishment and goals of JUST, pointing out that the university had in a short period of time established cooperation ties with many Arab and foreign universities.

The Korean delegation then toured the university's various faculties and departments.

## Montreal Fund grants Jordan \$500,000 to protect ozone layer

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Montreal Fund for the protection of the ozone layer is granting Jordan \$500,000 as initial step in helping it to find alternate industrial materials that cause no damage to the earth's ozone, Ghazi Oudat, a senior official at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, said.

Mr. Oudat said in a statement that the funds will be channelled to Jordanian industries including the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC), which will be encouraged to produce liquefied gas for Jordanian factories instead of the present materials that are damaging to the ozone layer.

Jordan is a signatory to the Montreal Protocol of 1987 which established a \$240 million fund provided by the industrialised nations to help developing countries opt for materials considered harmless to the layer.

The Montreal Protocol also bans import and export operations involving all materials considered harmful to the stratosphere's protective layer.

A team of experts from the Montreal Fund is currently on a visit to Jordan to meet with officials and visit sites and factories where harmful materials are being used, Mr. Oudat explained.

The experts will also work out a programme with the concerned public and private authorities to provide regular help to Jordanian industries in avoiding the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) which destroy the earth's ozone.

The Montreal conference of 1987 decided to phase out CFCs by the year 2000.

According to Mr. Oudat the Montreal Fund team will stay in Jordan until February 24. Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tubeishat last November attended an international conference in Copenhagen dedicated to finding mechanisms for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

## Jordanians, Saudis team up on waste disposal

By Rana Sabbagh  
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan's first women traffic cops got no respect.

Male motorists, on edge at the best of times in this bustling city, treated them as a joke when they hit the streets in 1986.

The men harassed them or, worse still, flirted with them outrageously.

The women were given other duties.

Today, despite the increase in Islamic conservative influence and growing male unemployment, the lot of Jordan's policewomen is improving.

The force is even considering putting them back on traffic duty — but in a gradual manner and after completing some studies.

"In the beginning my male colleagues used to wince when they had to salute me. But now the situation is normal," Jordan's top policewoman, Lieutenant-Colonel Hind Fouad Hammouka, told Reuters.

A lot of people rejected the idea of women joining the police. People used to criticise women police officers and women really wanting to join faced family opposition because they saw her as becoming a man," explained the brown-eyed mother of four.

Mrs. Hammouka, 39, says the Kingdom's 700 women police officers now carry out most of the duties of their male colleagues, including riot control, cracking down on drug smuggling and VIP protection.

Previously, they performed a much more traditional role such as searching women entering government buildings, typing and other clerical and administrative jobs.

"Compared to other Arab states, we have reached a very advanced stage and we are always striving to improve," Hammouka said.

"Our standard is closer to that of the European countries... the only difference our policewomen have with those in the West is that they do not organise traffic."

Women entered Jordan's police force for the first time in 1972 with the encouragement of His Majesty King Hussein, seeking to widen their role in society and modernise Jordan.

Three years later, he gave them the right to vote and stand for Parliament and years later he appointed two women as ministers.

Today women from 11 per cent of the Jordanian workforce with some of them working as lawyers, doctors and senior civil servants.

Mrs. Hammouka comes from a police family. Her father was a police officer as are her three brothers.

"Society has really changed over the past 20 years," she said. "Attitudes have changed, society has developed and people have become more educated. People's acceptance of police women has improved but I cannot say that acceptance is 100 per cent."

Architect Marcel Samameh, 22, is among the latest batch of Jordanians seeking to become a policewoman.

"In the first week I was only crying. 'Everything was tough,' she said at the Princess Basma Police Women Training Academy which offers a six-month course. Dressed in green training fatigues, she was limping from a foot injury sustained in tough marching exercises.

On a nearby hill, 32 graduates were being trained in special commando operations that included jumping from high towers and helicopters, live ammunition firing and rescuing hostages trapped in a house.

Shouting "Allah" (God) and other motivational slogans, the women then jumped through flaming hoops.

"These exercises offer the real qualitative leap that takes them from civil to military life," said a male instructor.

"Here they forget anything called fear."

## Women make their mark on Jordan's police force

By Rana Sabbagh  
Reuters

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"Our standard is closer to that of the European countries... the only difference our policewomen have with those in the West is that they do not organise traffic."

Women entered Jordan's police force for the first time in 1972 with the encouragement of His Majesty King Hussein, seeking to widen their role in society and modernise Jordan.

Three years later, he gave them the right to vote and stand for Parliament and years later he appointed two women as ministers.

Today women from 11 per cent of the Jordanian workforce with some of them working as lawyers, doctors and senior civil servants.

Mrs. Hammouka comes from a police family. Her father was a police officer as are her three brothers.

"Society has really changed over the past 20 years," she said. "Attitudes have changed, society has developed and people have become more educated. People's acceptance of police women has improved but I cannot say that acceptance is 100 per cent."

Architect Marcel Samameh, 22, is among the latest batch of Jordanians seeking to become a policewoman.

"In the first week I was only crying. 'Everything was tough,' she said at the Princess Basma Police Women Training Academy which offers a six-month course. Dressed in green training fatigues, she was limping from a foot injury sustained in tough marching exercises.

On a nearby hill, 32 graduates were being trained in special commando operations that included jumping from high towers and helicopters, live ammunition firing and rescuing hostages trapped in a house.

Shouting "Allah" (God) and other motivational slogans, the women then jumped through flaming hoops.

"These exercises offer the real qualitative leap that takes them from civil to military life," said a male instructor.

"Here they forget anything called fear."

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Princess Alia to attend graduation in Madaba

MADABA (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein will attend Thursday the graduation ceremony of the ninth batch of the Friends of Tourism at Princess Basma School in Madaba. Director of Madaba Tourism Office Ghazi Masarweh said the graduates were enrolled in a course which was organised by the office in cooperation with the Madaba Education Department. During the three-week period of the course, the participants attended lectures by writers and journalists specialised in tourism. About 800 students have graduated from the programme since it was initiated, Mr. Masarweh said.

#### Jordan's delegation visits Uzbek President Karimov

TASHKENT (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid conveyed Monday a message from His Majesty King Hussein to Uzbek President Islam Karimov congratulating him on his country's independence day and inviting him to visit Jordan. Prince Ra'd, who is currently heading a Jordanian delegation on a tour of the Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union, discussed with Mr. Karimov issues of common interest between Jordan and Uzbekistan. Mr. Karimov accepted King Hussein's invitation to visit Jordan and praised His Majesty's stands on the various international conflicts and the Middle East peace process. Commending achievements accomplished in Jordan under King Hussein, Mr. Karimov said his government will do its utmost to enhance Jordanian-Uzbek relations. The delegation met with Jordanian students studying at Uzbek universities and conveyed to them the greetings of King Hussein. The delegation will leave Tuesday for Turkmenistan on the fifth leg of their tour.

#### Cabinet approves tree donation to Lebanon

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has approved a recommendation by the Minister of Agriculture to donate 250,000 forest saplings to the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture to replant the forest areas affected by the civil war in Lebanon.

#### Kabariti discusses labour law with unions

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabariti met Monday with Secretary General of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions Khaled Shreim and several federation officials and discussed the new draft labour law to be taken up by the Cabinet Tuesday. Discussions at the meeting centred on the views of labourers. The meeting also reviewed Articles 28 and 31 of the draft law, dealing with industrial relations, labourers' rights and the investment climate.

#### Bataineh attends Arabisation meeting in Bahrain

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation led by Health Minister Aref Bataineh left Amman for Manama, Bahrain Monday to participate in a conference on "Arabising Medical Education in the Arab World." The three-day conference will discuss issues related to Arabising the education of medicine and medical sciences in Arab universities and colleges. The Jordanian delegation will present proposals on drafting a comprehensive law for writing medical books and encouraging the translation of foreign medical publications into Arabic.

#### Last Amman's needy to receive assistance

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of East Amman Social Development Department Adel Hijazeen Monday said the department recently conducted several social studies on needy families in East Amman areas to define their needs and offer them current assistance. Mr. Hijazeen said social studies were also conducted on juveniles and beggars in the area to help solve their problems. The department, he said, plans on expanding its visits and facilitating procedures facing citizens who apply for assistance.

## Agricultural processing meeting to discuss Spain's experience

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Fayez Khasawneh Monday said Jordan was trying to benefit from Spain's vast experience in agriculture in order to promote sales of its own agricultural produce to European markets.

In a statement following the opening of a meeting of Spanish and Jordanian agricultural production experts, the minister said Spain's know-how, particularly in cultivating and automated harvesting of olives, producing olive oil, and processing of agricultural produce will be the focus of the meetings.

Dr. Khasawneh said the discussions are expected to conclude with the adoption of a practical programme for future cooperation in projects by the private and public sectors of both countries.

The two-day round-table meeting is being organised by the Jordanian and Spanish governments in response to a proposal by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan during his visit to Spain last May, said Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Juan Manuel Cabrera at the opening session.

The Spanish government has welcomed bilateral cooperation of the food processing industries of Jordan and Spain in the private and public sectors, and the meeting was the first fruit of this cooperation, the ambassador said.

He added that it is hoped that the meeting will result in closer cooperation between the two countries in implementation of an agreement signed by Jordan and Spain during the Spanish foreign minister's visit to Jordan last year.

Mr. Cabrera said the agreement provided for cooperation in cultural, technological and scientific fields.

Dr. Khasawneh said Jordan's participation in last year's Seville Expo encouraged both countries to boost cooperation in other fields, including the food processing industry.

The minister added that Spain and Jordan have maintained long-standing cooperation in tourism, culture and science.

The round-table meetings are being held at the Amman Marriott Hotel.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Modernized Still Life Photographed" at the American Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of watercolour paintings by Syrian artist Nazir Nab'a at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by the late Syrian artist Alfred Hatmal at Al Balqa Art Gallery in Fuhels city.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jammal, Helen Khal, Suha Noursi and Afaf Zurayk — at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jabal Amman, between the First and Second Circles.
- ★ Exhibition of photographs by Jean-Philippe Reverdot at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Hayat Jamil Hafez at Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of Romanian textile machineries at the Jordanian Textiles Company in Marka.

### LECTURE

- ★ Lecture on "The Work of the German Protestant Institute for Archaeology, Amman" by Institute Director Susanne Kerner at the Goethe Institute — 7 p.m.

## U.S. welcomes Jordanian exports

AMMAN (J.T.) — A drive by the Jordanian Trade Association (JTA) to market national products in the United States was welcomed by Douglas Neumann, commercial attaché at the U.S. embassy in Amman.

Mr. Neumann was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as welcoming trade with Jordan and calling for increased Jordanian exports to American markets as a first step to bolster economic ties between the two countries.

Addressing a JTA seminar held at the Amman Marriott Hotel Sunday evening, Mr. Neumann was quoted as saying the concerned U.S. departments were ready to offer assistance to facilitate the imports of Jordanian national products.

Describing Jordanian exporters and businessmen as ranking among the best in the Arab World, Mr. Neumann said that the U.S. was eager to do business with them.

He listed several U.S. commercial and economic institutions which Jordanian exporters can contact, adding that everything possible will be done to facilitate Jordanian exports to American markets.

The meeting, called to discuss means of increasing the volume of Jordanian products marketed in the U.S., was addressed by several speakers from the JTA and Jordanian businessmen.

## Karak to survey area's poor

KARAK (Petra) — Karak Governor Radhi Ibrahim Monday chaired a meeting at the governorate house to discuss means of reducing poverty pockets in Karak governorate. The meeting, which was attended by senior officials in the governorate stressed the need to conduct a comprehensive survey of poor families in the various towns and villages.

## TENDER NOTICE

The Directorate of Projects Services/Ministry of Education announces the tendering of the following tender which is part of the American grant.

Tender No.	Title	Fees JD
1/93	Computer	5,000

Interested bidders are invited to collect tender documents from Procurement Division of the Directorate of Projects Services/Ministry of Education, starting February 13th, 1993 against the payment of the above fees.

Closing date will be 11:00 a.m. of March 20th, 1993  
Head of Special Tenders Committee  
Khalid Al Ghazzawi



By Rami G. Khouri

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Editorial and advertising offices:  
Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6716, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670414-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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## Solid on the right only

JORDAN'S POLITICAL landscape is littered with political parties that will compete in this year's parliamentary elections, but the weight seems more solid on the right than on either the centre or left. The Muslim Brotherhood, the most powerful political bloc in Parliament, is leading independent Islamists in the newly formed Islamic Action Front (IAF). The front can rely in any election campaign on two important factors: One, the increasing tendency in our society to go back to religion and to have more faith in religious leaders; and, two, the well prepared and experienced machinery and members of the Muslim Brotherhood organisation.

The centre and left parties are lacking in both regards. The so-called centrists, who mostly rely on experienced establishment leaders and politicians and tribal leaders, face many problems, whether ideological, organisational or otherwise. The erosion and weakening of tribal affiliations in modern Jordan, coupled with the failure of establishment politicians and tribal leaders to present workable political alternatives, will make their job in the elections extremely difficult, to say the least.

The left, meanwhile, has lost its glamour and appeal as a result of the failure of its political and social agenda in countries like Egypt, Syria, Iraq and, more importantly perhaps, the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc.

But the most important factor in the weakness of both the centre and left as compared to the right is their fragmentation into small, ineffective groups. While the right, as mainly represented by the Muslim Brotherhood, has managed to bring under its umbrella, the IAF and all shades of Islamism thought, the left and the centre are too divided and weak to even get their act together and merge into bigger groups and parties. It goes without saying that unless they form larger coalitions their impact in the next elections will definitely be negligible. We recognise the formidable task facing the leftists and centrists, but all hope should not be lost right away. If they do not start something today to end their fragmentation, they will be overwhelmed by the power and agenda of the right.

We are not, nor are about to take sides in the political tussle in Jordan. What is our greatest concern at this moment in our history, however, is that the democratic process continues and progresses. For that to happen all political shades need to be active, strong and alert on the same level. Otherwise we will be drowned by a single agenda that at times seems to be a little too rightist for our taste and that of Jordan.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Monday commented on the creation of a centre for freedom, democracy and human rights and King Hussein's address to the founding committee. Echoing the King's words that the centre will serve as a beacon for others, dissipating the darkness, the paper said that the creation of the centre will be a historic move, enabling the Arab Nation to come to life again following years of slumber. The King has initiated the centre in order to spread the Jordanian message of freedom and democracy and in order to help implement the principles and ideas of the Great Arab Revolt in the Arab World, said the daily. The paper said that the King wanted this centre to remind the Arab Nation of the danger inherent in repression, divisions, civil wars and narrow-mindedness. In his address, the King laid the course for the free and true Arabs to work for the attainment of justice and for the protection of Arab human rights, and to open the way for the coming unity among the Arab states, added the paper. It said that the speech was directed to the free Arabs to rise to the platform of freedom, reason and dignity and to shoulder the responsibility of liberating the Arabs and ensuring their freedom and democracy.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour criticised Lebanon and Syria for agreeing to resume the peace negotiations with Israel without a settlement of the Palestinian expellees' question. Hamadeh Faraneh said that the two countries have given their approval for the resumption of the talks even before the arrival of the U.S. secretary of state to the region, later this month, and without securing any gains in exchange for such an approval. The writer said it is regrettable to say that Warren Christopher will find himself welcomed in most Arab countries and see facilities given by the Arab regimes wishing to reach peace with Israel. He said that the Jordanians and the Palestinians can, if they want, reject Washington's proposals for a resumption of the talks until the expellees' question has been solved. The Jordanians and the Palestinians form a fundamental element to the peace process and it would be almost impossible to resume the talks without them, said the writer. In exchange for the Syrian and Lebanese approval to resume the talks, Israel has offered nothing, said the writer, adding that the expelled men are still exposed to cold, hunger and deprivation while Israelis intransigent stand is more manifest than ever before.

## The View from Fourth Circle

# All-or-nothing usually means nothing

The continuing diplomatic tug-of-war over the fate of the 400 Palestinians expelled to southern Lebanon has taken on important new dimensions with the recent U.N. Security Council acceptance of an American-engineered Israeli "compromise" to return 101 Palestinians immediately and the rest by the end of this year. Most Arab reactions have rejected this compromise as insufficient, claiming that it only aims to defer sanctions against Israel, and that it does not address the root issue of the illegality of the expulsions. The general Arab tendency is to stay away from the Arab-Israeli peace talks until there is a total and immediate return of all the expellees.

The general Arab tendency, I would suggest, appears once again to be based primarily on emotional hurt, diplomatic weakness and a general inability to sort out the complex and interwoven strands of Arab national means and ends. The maximalist, all-or-nothing approach to diplomacy has been a consistent, proven failure throughout modern Arab history, ever since Egyptians, Hashemites, Palestinians, Lebanese, Syrians and other Arabs engaged the European powers in nationalistic battles and diplomatic negotiations as of the last quarter of the 19th century. Our insistence on all-or-nothing has usually resulted in our getting nothing.

If we blindly insist that we will not resume the peace talks until all the expelled Palestinians are repatriated, we are likely only to prolong the expulsions and delay the peace talks, without forcing a change in Israeli or U.S. policy. We are playing directly into the hands of hardline Arabs and Israelis who want to end the peace talks — at a moment when the majority of Arabs and Israelis want the talks to succeed, and when the talks offer our best chance to check and then to vanquish Zionist aggression. The pressures that forced Israel to make its compromise are precisely the kinds of pressures that we can bring to bear on Israel in the peace talks, where we stand the best chance of achieving our national rights in the near future.

The mass expulsions are a painful reminder of the real diplomatic imbalance we suffer today: Israel is militarily strong and we are weak. For us to take an all-or-nothing attitude simply highlights our weakness and the self-destructive futility of our simplistic approach. We are acting like frustrated children who confuse affirmative emotionalism with successful diplomacy.

The "compromise" that Israel has offered and that the Security Council has accepted is a relative (not absolute) diplomatic breakthrough for the Arabs. By any standards, it is a step forward for the Arabs, U.N. resolutions, and international legitimacy. There are several hundred previous Security Council resolutions that Israel has ignored, and this is perhaps the first time in modern history that Israel has modified and partly reversed its actions on the basis of Arab and international diplomatic pressure. This partial victory should not be destroyed because we did not win a total victory. The fact is, we have never won a total victory against

Israel and its American supporters, and we will not win one by allowing our pride and disoriented political machismo to overwhelm our sense of rationality and diplomatic realism.

For those who still enjoy the composure to recognise a step forward when they make it, this "compromise", however imperfect, should be seen as a clear sign of the times, and a pointer to the direction in which diplomatic things are moving: Israel's gradual diplomatic isolation as one of the world's few remaining occupying powers is reducing its room for manoeuvre, and slowly forcing it to comply with international norms of conduct.

The hard fact for the Arabs is that we have to accept our little gains and our diminutive victories in a piecemeal manner, while tempering our tendency to demand total, instantaneous, and absolute victory. Sadly, the world rarely provides such cataclysmic triumphs, and the sooner we come to terms with this historical and human fact the more likely we are to translate our little, limited and relative victories into big ones.

We would do well to start by appreciating the tactics of others in similar situations as ours. The black South Africans, for example, offer a good starting point for our case studies of triumph through patient and gradualist diplomacy. Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress (ANC) are on the verge of forming a coalition, power-sharing, transitional government that will see authority gradually transferred to them during this decade. Their inevitable triumph against the massive military, political and economic superiority of the white apartheid regime and its western supporters is testament to patient and conciliatory diplomacy that made a series of small gains based on a succession of compromises — until, in 1992, the ANC's considerable global moral and political support finally translated into an overwhelming torrent that forced the apartheid regime to capitulate and to start transferring power to the black majority.

This is only the most dramatic example. There are many others, including the actions of Israel itself in the first half of this century, when Zionist groups progressively accumulated political credibility by taking their gains one at a time, and building them up into an irresistible force for statehood. The United States itself — our lone superpower today — often accepted imperfect compromises with the Soviet Union over arms reduction treaties, and emerged triumphant.

In other words, there is no shame in accepting half a loaf when half a loaf is the only thing likely to be offered. To the contrary, to make rational, conscious and deliberate compromises in the short term in the service of achieving our goals and rights in the long term is probably a sign of the sort of political maturity and national self-confidence that we have sadly lacked throughout most of this century. Have we learned nothing from the last two hundred years of diplomatic dealing with the western powers and their Israeli/Zionist adjuncts?

It is high time that Arab diplomacy sheds its suicidal albatross

## Are the sands about to shift under Saudi Arabia?

By John Rossant

RIYADH — If you want to see the Saudi consumer economy going full tilt, check out Riyadh's Olayya neighbourhood some evening. With its gleaming, marble-clad shopping centres and boutiques loaded with gold watches, caviar, and couture fashion, the area looks like a jazzed-up version of Beverly Hills' Rodeo Drive.

But just a mile or two away is another Saudi Arabia. In the noisy Batha market — a vast Middle Eastern-style souq — there are no westerners, and the Saudis are poorer than those in Olayya. Wedged between a shoe store and an electronics shop is an audiocassette stall. But instead of music, the hundreds of tapes offer religious fare. Many are hysterical attacks on the U.S. and Israel — and some even daringly take aim at the Saudi royal family.

The jarring scenes — one rich and westernised, the other anti-American and extremist — tell a lot about the schizophrenic reality of Saudi Arabia. Less than two years after Desert Storm, the Saudi economy is booming as never before, spelling handy profits for U.S. and European companies that are hurting elsewhere. But religious fundamentalism and political uncertainty are also on the upswing. And with them come questions about the long-term stability of the world's No.1 oil exporter and a key U.S. ally.

**Rest Eilat**  
In the near term, things look great. The Saudi economy, charged by record oil production and postwar optimism, is growing at close to a 6 per cent annual clip. The big Saudi cities — including Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dhahran — resemble vast construction sites. Office rents have risen by as much as 25 per cent over the past year, while property values have soared by over 200 per cent, in some cases.

"This is probably the only place in the world where real estate is actually going up in value," says David Rehfsch, chief economist at Riyadh Bank Ltd. Unlike past Saudi booms, this one is being fueled by a newly confident private sector. Although tens of billions of dollars fled in the days following Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, there has since flowed back, and Saudis are pumping money into local projects. "You are seeing money coming out of the mattresses," says Abdullah T. Dabbagh, secretary general of the Saudi Arabian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. By Mr. Dabbagh's estimation, some \$30 billion in private savings-account deposits within Saudi Arabia is available for investment.

Yet that froth masks some worrying trends.

The Saudi government is increasingly unable to rein in its spending. Bankrolling both Desert Storm and one of the world's most generous cradle-to-grave welfare schemes, government debt has ballooned, from nothing in 1988 to more than \$50 billion today — over half the kingdom's gross domestic product. Central bank reserves, once more than \$100 billion, are at a rock-bottom \$4 billion. "There is just no one willing to put on the brakes," says a Riyadh economic adviser. "The king certainly isn't."

**"The Saudi government is increasingly unable to rein in its spending. Bankrolling both Desert Storm and one of the world's most generous cradle-to-grave welfare schemes, government debt has ballooned, from nothing in 1988 to more than \$50 billion today — over half the kingdom's gross domestic product. Central bank reserves, once more than \$100 billion, are at a rock-bottom \$4 billion."**

Such profligacy, some fear, is creating an increasingly fragile speculative bubble. If oil prices take a tumble, as they did in the mid-1980s, Riyadh would have no financial cushion, and the effects could be traumatic. "Remember, during the last downturn here in the 1980s, the Islamic movement simply didn't exist," says a western diplomat in Riyadh. "You did not have organisations ready to take advantage of trouble. Now, you do."

Few American companies, though, are concerned about such matters. For hundreds, Saudi Arabia is a dream market. Last year, it sucked up more than \$8 billion in U.S. non-military goods, making the kingdom a major U.S. export market. From air conditioners and jeans to Levi's, more U.S. goods are now entering Saudi Arabia than Chi-

na. In the past two years alone, American market share has soared, from 15 per cent to today's record 21 per cent — causing many European and Japanese suppliers to grumble.

Defence and aerospace contractors also are cashing in. The huge postwar sale of 72 F15 jets, worth more than \$5 billion, means McDonnell Douglas Corp. can keep open its St. Louis production plants throughout the decade. Boeing Co. is in the running for nearly \$3 billion worth of airplanes for Saudi Arabia, the national airline. Hughes Aircraft Co., the General Motors Corp. aerospace unit, has well over \$1 billion in contracts, including a \$258 million deal to build telecommunications satellites for Saudi-financed ArabSat. Says John Crigler, chief executive of Hughes Saudi Arabia, "I can safely say that Saudi Arabia is now our single most important international market."

**Pietty Poses**  
Saudia is a gold mine for GM, Ford, and Chrysler, as well. Saudi cities are flooded with Chevrolet Caprices, Cadillac Seville, and other high-end models. GM's brawny Suburban is a runaway success. The Gulf area "accounts for 95 per cent of all Suburban exports," says Gary Rowley, vice-president of GM Overseas Distribution Co. "And Saudi Arabia has the highest market penetration outside Texas." GM is even toying with setting up a Saudi vehicle-assembly plant.

The boom extends to financial services. Citibank has one of its best profit centres in Saudi Arabia. Its Saudi American Bank, or SAMBA as the affiliate is called, turned in a cool \$300 million net profit last year. In a land where women are forbidden to drive and virtually none holds a job, the bank has begun to hire women to sell investment advice to other women at home.

In part, the U.S. success derives from the low dollar and a postwar sales drive by Corporate America. And in part, it represents political debt-paying, especially the roughly \$25 billion in arms purchases since the Gulf war. But even "for the Saudi man in the street, there is a deep debt of gratitude to the U.S. and the West for coming to our aid" during the conflict with Iraq, says leading businessman Mohammad Jameel.

But that very embrace of the U.S. is creating problems in what is, after all, the Holy Land of Islam. Since the war, there has been a strong upsurge of fundamentalist activity, in part a reflection of what is happening elsewhere in the Middle East. Teams of religious police, the

feared mutawi, patrol shopping centres and supermarkets in search of attire judged improper. And lately, say many Saudis, the religious posers have for the first time begun breaking into private homes in search of liquor and pornography. "I don't feel safe in my own house anymore," says one leading Jeddah merchant.

The skewed political economy plays into the fundamentalists' hands. Population growth, at around 3.5 per cent, is among the highest in the world. Already, Saudi baby boomers — conceived in the heady wake of quadrupling oil prices in 1974 — are hitting the job market in droves. Most are dismally unprepared for productive work, while private-sector companies prefer to hire Egyptians, Pakistanis, or Bangladeshis at around one-third of a typical Saudi salary. In private companies, according to one study, only 2 per cent of the work force is Saudi. "If you're young here," says one longtime Riyadh resident, "you turn either to drugs or to religion."

**PC Mosques?**  
While the government condones — and in some cases encourages — religious activities, it objects when they involve politics. And that is happening more and more. In November, leading Saudi religious scholars issued a manifesto criticising the Saudi defence establishment and calling for a more "Islamic" — meaning less pro-American — foreign policy. King Fahd lashed back with a warning to keep politics out of the mosques. Although Riyadh is rife with rumours that Islamic fundamentalists have been thrown into jail, "the government does not seem to be able to control these people," says a western diplomat in Riyadh.

Local analysts worry that King Fahd isn't up to handling a crisis. Once regarded as a relatively active, even liberal prince, the 74-year-old king is by all accounts indecisive, in poor health, and prone to sleeping most of the day at one of his many palatial complexes. Although the government apparatus has competent institutions — from the central bank to Saudi Arabian Oil Co., the state-owned colossus — decision-making often becomes paralysed at the king's level.

Still, as long as Saudi oil flows at relatively stable prices, the betting is that Riyadh will be able to keep a lid on an increasingly tense and uneasy society. But if something happens to break the bubble — such as a sharp drop in the oil market if the U.N. embargo against Iraq is lifted — the odds would shift — Business Week.

## LETTERS

### Elusive peace

To the Editor:  
International legitimacy! Once again we are watching a fascinating vanishing act. And we remember that some people are more equal than others. Yet, we are told that the peace process must go on. Why? To keep the Arabs busy?

One begins to wonder what kind of peace can come out of this process. At best, one based on international legitimacy! But what is this peace worth as one party to the agreement is above international legitimacy while the other party is permanently beaten to the total and unconditional implementation of it?

Even people with a lot of good will might feel that waiting for Warren Christopher's peace-package is nothing else than waiting for Godot.

Elinor Kaiser-Mohammad,  
P.O. Box 540 383,  
Amman-Abu Nuseir.

## The feminine mystique

To the Editor:  
Anyone who has read the article written by an educated member of our society under the title of "The Woman" in Al Ra'i newspaper on Thursday, Feb. 4 would have to agree that despite the tremendous strides towards equality with men which women have made in our lifetime, women are still being increasingly viewed and treated as objects, creatures created for specific and narrow purposes, such as men's pleasure or perfect mommyness. Women are once again being defined in terms of husband, family and home. Even more dehumanising, the writer of the article, Mr. Freij, depicted women as unfit, physically and psychologically, to be anything other than wives and mothers.

One cannot help but notice the writer's resentment of the fight for women's equality and his insistence to view women as second class citizens. His anxiety is fuelled by fear and resentment, so much so that he accuses women who "over-step" their "natural function" in society of robbing men of their jobs, thus increasing the rate of unemployment.

May I ask our respected writer, if that were the case, wouldn't it prove that women can and do excel in what he considers "men's jobs"? It is important to note the contradiction in what is being proposed to us: women are unfit to hold "men's positions", yet they are robbing men of their jobs! Maybe this resentment and retrosexist "slap" is a sign that women are getting closer to breaking down sexist attitudes.

Behind this contradiction lies an unconscious feeling of fear; fear of the threat of a major social transformation. Maybe the solution to Mr. Freij's anxiety and distress would be to ban girls and women from schools and universities, so that they will truly be unfit and unable to compete with the opposite sex in a "man's world". Hence, Mr. Freij would be guaranteed unopposed sovereignty in a patriarchal and sexist social system. After all, a "civilised" society where one sex provides just the bread and the other just the offspring. Moreover, that way we would be saving the state enormous amounts of money by cutting the budget spent on educational institutions for half the population.

Having said all that, I would like to remind our respected writer that we are approaching the 21st century, with a new world order, and this is his chance to provide suggestions which would be possible solutions to the problem which, according to him, is causing social unrest; so, go ahead, Mr. Freij, grab the chance before it is too late.

It seems to me that in a society facing economic hardships, such as ours, women's struggle to be bread-winners as well as breast-feeders should be appreciated and respected rather than condemned. Condemnation only proves unawareness of the importance of improving a couple's life and bettering ourselves.

Natasha Bukhari,  
P.O. Box 364,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



## Senate votes to curb clause in law

(Continued from page 1)

work in journalism" as well as the profession and do not work in the framework of regulations governing the work of correspondents for foreign newspapers. The amendment was made in light of the Senate's earlier decision to abolish the definition of journalist from the draft law. The Senate also amended article 15 to make owners of publications responsible for what is published in them. As approved by the Lower House, the article at the responsibility on writers and chief editors.

The Senate's amendment of article 14 added a condition that chief editors of political parties' publications be residents in the Kingdom.

The Senate, which will resume its discussion of the draft law (Thursday), approved a draft law in a general amnesty issued by His Majesty King Hussein in November and a draft law on the

Telecommunications Corporation as endorsed by the House. It referred to the Financial Committee a draft law on technical and economic cooperation with China and to its Judiciary Committee a draft law on building codes in the country.

The Senate entrusted its Foreign Affairs Committee and its permanent office with issuing a communiqué on the statement of the president of the Security Council on about 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel to South Lebanon in December.

The council's president said this week that the council believed Israel's decision to allow back 100 expelled Palestinians to the occupied territories was a step on the right direction, indicating no further council action to enforce Resolution 799, which demanded the immediate return of all the expellees to their homeland.

The Lower House Sunday condemned the statement of the Security Council president.

## Crisis should not derail talks

(Continued from page 1)

that the Security Council had not ruled on the Israeli compromise.

Mr. Abu Sharif predicted that the next round of peace talks will begin after the Holy Month of Ramadan ends around March 22. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher begins a Middle East tour Wednesday to try to revive peace talks, hoping the next round can take place in April. He visits Israel, Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Sunday that Israel was prepared to make compromises, including ones involving territory, and wants to get on with peace talks with the Arabs. "Morally we do not want to dominate other people and politically we do not want to create a Yugoslav-like tragedy," Mr. Peres said in remarks to a leading J.S. Jewish group in Washington.

"We are ready for a mutual compromise, including a territorial one," the Israeli foreign minister told the National Jewish Community Relations advisory council's annual meeting.

Mr. Peres in his speech to the J.S. Jewish group did not address the expulsion crisis directly, but said Israel was eager to resume peace negotiations with the Arabs.

"We want to attain peace with all our neighbours — the Palestinian people, the Jordanians, the Syrians and the Lebanese. And we want to build new structures

based on regional security" and development of the region's economy, he said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Peres said that Israel was "extremely comfortable" with the incoming Clinton administration in Washington. "We sense an air of friendship," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday he was confident the Palestinians would rejoin the peace talks.

Mr. Rabin, asked by reporters whether he expected the Palestinians to keep up the boycott, replied: "I believe that the parties that are interested in peace will come to the peace negotiations, and I believe that the Palestinians will do the same."

In an apparent gesture to sway the Palestinians, Mr. Rabin said if violence in the occupied territories declined he would consider releasing Palestinian prisoners detained during the five-year intifada.

"Even without reaching an agreement, we will then consider a drastic reduction in... the number of detainees and prisoners," Mr. Rabin said.

Ziad Abu Zayyad, adviser to the Palestinian peace team, implored Israeli leaders to improve the atmosphere, telling Israeli army radio: "Do something positive in order to ensure the resumption of the negotiations."

He accused Israel of raising obstacles, citing its blowing up of Palestinians' houses, leaving families homeless, in a campaign to root out suspected activists in the Gaza Strip.

## U.N. force to deploy in all Somalia

(Continued from page 1)

and enforcement mandate as UNITAF (the U.N.-mandated force under U.S. command.)

The U.S.-led force has made no attempt to extend its mission to northern Somalia, which was largely spared from the famine that killed 300,000 Somalis over the past two years.

Northern Somalia broke away from the south after rebels ousted Somali dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in 1991, declaring itself independent Somaliland. No country recognises it.

Mr. Mawlawi said UNOSOM's chief goal would be the disarmament of all factions in Somalia, which was shattered by the civil

war and anarchy that followed Mr. Siad Barre's overthrow.

"The key to the solution of (Somalia's) problems and the success of the mission of the United Nations... will be disarmament," he said.

A joint Belgian-U.S. force raided a camp in southern Somalia and captured nine people of a group suspected of attacking a village the day before, the U.S. military said Monday.

Fighting between rival factions in the area near Kismayu, about 400 kilometres south of Mogadishu, scuttled preliminary peace talks last month following a ceasefire agreed to by Somalia's warlords.

## Banned Islamist group claims attack

(Continued from page 1)

parliamentary elections a year ago. The voting was cancelled after the movement banned in an attempt to bring about the committee to power.

The front formally associated with the armed groups in a communiqué released Jan. 12 and signed by its deputy leader Ali al-Hadi, who is serving a 12-year prison term. Two lawyers were arrested as part of an investigation into how the communiqué was leaked from the prison.

Authorities say at least 600 people have been killed in violence over the past year, nearly half of them policemen.

The Armed Islamic Movement, an umbrella group thought to cover various armed groups, took responsibility for a series of bomb attacks in a first communiqué issued Saturday, released by the Associated Press in London.

The only language this junta understands is the language of the sword," said the communiqué from the group, promising continued attacks.

The list of attacks did not include the one aimed at Gen. Nezzar or an airport bombing which killed nine people last August.

Authorities have linked the airport bombing to the front. But Mr. Kebir, who fled to exile in Europe, claims a confession by one suspect who served as an aide to FIS leaders was extracted through torture.

In other recent violence, four policemen were killed in the eastern suburb of Al Harrache over the weekend, and the driver of a small bus carrying the children of police was killed in an attack in Reghaia, also east of the capital.

On Saturday, police killed three armed Islamic extremists in Blida, south of Algiers, and on Sunday, police arrested 11 Islamic extremists in the eastern city of Constantine, charging them with terrorism.

## iles say Christopher tour doomed

(Continued from page 1)

er how long it takes," said Rantisi.

Rantisi said Mr. Christopher would not be able to convince the Palestinians to change position on the peace talks. "We have great confidence in Secretary-General of the Arab League," (Esmat Abdul

Meguid)," Dr. Rantisi told reporters earlier Monday as snow fell on the tent camp on a windswept hillside.

"We urge him to play a positive and effective role against the latest steps of the Security Council and ask him to base his moves on our firm stand in line with international legitimacy and Resolution 799," he added.

## Freezing Armenians scavenge desperately for firewood

By David Ljunggren  
Reuter

YEREVAN, Armenia — As night falls in the Armenian capital Yerevan, figures emerge from the gloom, scurrying through the silent snowy streets, saws in hand and laden with wood.

The only sounds to be heard every hour of day and night are sawing and the rasp of branches being pulled across icy streets. Piles of sawdust in the snow bear witness to the latest hunt for wood.

Five years after a dispute over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh erupted with neighbouring Azerbaijan, this small former Soviet republic, once a land of plenty, is slowly returning to the stone age.

Freezing Armenians have cut down more than a million trees for firewood. The ecology minister calls it an environmental catastrophe and says the damage could be irreparable.

The head of the Armenian ecologists, who also decries the damage, says at least one of his toes will have to be amputated because he has spent too much time in unheated buildings.

"I took 20 years to cultivate my own little orchard but had to cut down all the trees last month for firewood — it's like killing your own children," says Engineer Vazgen Kunesyan.

The Karabakh conflict and other ethnic strife in the volatile Transcaucasus has slashed supplies to Armenia.

The temperature in apartments, which have not been heated for two years, hovers just above zero. Light is turned on three hours a day at most while gas supplies have been off for weeks.

Industry is at a total standstill — virtually the only people doing a thriving business are street sellers peddling basic foods and goods at astronomical prices and black marketeers desperate to ditch their rubles for dollars.

The city's subway system, which runs for a few hours a day, is stuffed with passengers, many clutching bundles of branches, broken crates and smashed-up furniture.

The wood is stuffed into the voracious pechka, or stove, which dominates the lives of all Armenians. Family members sit huddled round the square free-standing stove for warmth and tend it as though their lives depend on it.

As engineer Albert Panossyan opens the door to his apartment in a far-flung Yerevan suburb, smoke billows out from a faulty pechka which his son-in-law is doing his best to mend.

Albert's wife, two children and four grandchildren spend most of their time near the stove or in the dining room next door, gradually



working through their food supplies.

"We're almost out of food and wood. We just won't be eating next month," says Albert, pointing to an imposing mahogany wardrobe in the corner. "We'll break that up next."

Robberies are spiralling out of control because the lack of power has knocked out all burglar alarms. Packs of starving wild dogs have savaged at least one person to death.

Diplomats tell of seeing corpses laid out in central squares by relatives who beg for contributions to cover funeral costs.

"We used to send presents to friends in Russia to ensure they didn't starve. Now look at us," said one old woman tramping through Yerevan's icy central indoor market, looking at prices of cheese, bread and fruit she could never hope to afford.

Black humour abounds. A Yerevan phone call:

"Hello, how are you doing?"

"Fine, thanks."

"Sorry, must have the wrong number."

Few people blame the authorities entirely for their woes, reasoning that conditions could not be improved by simply changing the administration, but patience is running out.

Last week 100,000 people marched through central Yerevan to demand the resignation of President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who promised in his new year's message that this would be the republic's last bad winter.

"That's because we'll all be dead next year," sniffs the wife of retired General Ashot Kazaryan, head of the Armenian Veterans' Committee.



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YOKOHAMA	يوكوهاما	-	27-29/01/93
KOBE	كوبي	-	-
HAKATA	هاكاتا	-	22-25/01/93
MIZUSHIMA	ميزوشيمما	-	-
BUSAN	بوسان	-	-
KEELUNG	كيلونغ	-	-
HONGKONG	هونغ كونغ	-	-
SINGAPORE	سنغافورة	28/01/93	10/02/93
PORT OF DISCHARGING	موانئ التفريق		
PIRAEUS	بيرايوس	-	-
BENGHAZI	بنغازي	-	-
LA GOULETTE	لاجوليت	-	26/02-01/03/93
SUEZ	السويس	-	-
PORT SUDAN	بورت سودان	-	-
HODEIDAH	الحديدة	08-09/02/93	-
ADEN	العدنة	12-13/02/93	02-03/03/93
SUEZ CANAL	قناة السويس	14-15/02/93	04-05/03/93
SKIDA	سكيدا	-	09-10/03/93
TRIPOLI	طرابلس	-	-
BARI	باري	18-21/02/93	-
ALGIER	الجزائر	-	13-14/03/93
CASABLANCA	الدار البيضاء	-	-
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## Romanians demand bread, pay rises

BUCHAREST (R) — Thousands of Romanians marched through Bucharest Monday shouting for President Ion Iliescu's resignation in the first workers' street protest against the government which took office in November.

Discontent over dwindling wages, soaring prices and growing unemployment has built up over the past month with a series of strikes and threatened stoppages, as well as quarrels between unions and the government during wage negotiations.

Many of the 3,000 workers who massed in Revolution Square in icy weather also shouted slogans demanding bread and pay rises.

"We were cheated by this government," said union leader Aurel Stan. "We want jobs, better pay and an end to the misery in our lives."

The protesters sent the government and Mr. Iliescu a list of demands — better welfare, new jobs and minimum monthly pay of 41,000 lei (\$82) instead of the present 17,300 (\$35).

Protesters chanted "jobs, not unemployment", "resignation, resignation" and "down with Iliescu."

They marched through the capital with banners naming union branches from across Romania and daubed with slogans such as "where is the bread?" and "we want better wages, not lies."

The march was led by the "Solidarity 90" trade union federation, which groups 500,000 workers from many professions.

The confederation of Free Trade Unions (CFTU) which boasts more than one million members, has threatened national strikes unless the government accepts its demands on a national labour contract including a tripling of basic pay to keep pace with inflation.

## India offers Tajikistan more trade and credit

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Monday offered \$5 million of credit to Tajikistan to boost trade between India and the Central Asian republic.

Mr. Rao made the offer to Abdul Malik Abdul Lojonov, the prime minister of Tajikistan, who arrived Sunday night on a five day visit aimed at improving commerce with India.

India's Commerce Secretary A.V. Ganesan told businessmen from both countries that India will step up its export of consumer goods to Tajikistan. Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Mr. Ganesan also said India will establish joint ventures between the two nations and help train Tajikistan businessmen, PTI said.

Mr. Abdul Lojonov thanked Mr. Rao and invited Indian industrialists to set up ventures using his small republic's large supply of cotton and minerals such as silver, zinc and lead.

Mr. Abdul Lojonov said he would like India's help in setting up businesses.

Manubhai Shah, president of the India CIS Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said it hopes to send businessmen to Tajikistan to make deals involving textiles, drugs, minerals and other items.

Mr. Rao and Mr. Abdul Lojonov signed agreements designed to improve relations between India and Tajikistan, increase their trade, explore each others' cultures, and compete in sports.

## Attacks on tourists cost Egypt \$700m

CAIRO (R) — Tourism Minister Fouad Sultan said Monday Muslim militant attacks on foreign tourists had cost Egypt \$700 million.

Despite tough security measures taken by the government to safeguard the country's main source of foreign currency, hoteliers and tourist operators say business is slack.

Mr. Sultan said militant attacks, in which one British woman was killed and two Britons and five Germans were wounded late last year, caused a 20 per cent drop in revenues compared with the same period

the year before.

"Between \$60 and \$70 million is lost in receipts each month. The losses have reached about \$700 million so far," Mr. Sultan told Reuters. "If that pace continues, the losses in the fiscal year 1992-1993 (which ends in June) will reach about \$1 billion," he added.

He said when calculating revenues based on government forecasts, the losses could be even more. Egypt had expected four million visitors for the fiscal year 1992-1993 and more than \$4 billion in revenues.

Mr. Sultan said in the year

1991-1992 an estimated three million tourists visited Egypt, generating \$3.5 billion.

"Tourism activity is below average. There is a drop instead of growth. The drop has been between 15 and 20 per cent every month compared with the same period last year," Mr. Sultan said.

He said the tourism industry accounted for 30 per cent of Egypt's foreign currency receipts and 10 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP).

Many employees in the tourism business fear for their jobs.

"If things don't improve many

people in the business will be without a job very soon," said one Australian tour operator.

The pyramids and ancient pharaonic temples — Egypt's main tourist attractions — are virtually empty. Luxury hotels, tourist villages and Red Sea beaches are quiet.

Egyptian hoteliers are nostalgic about the boom days. Boats and river cruises lie idle along the palm-lined banks of the Nile waiting for clients. Souvenir shops have everything except shoppers.

Michael Shepherd, general manager of the Nile Hilton, said

occupancy at his hotel was 65 per cent compared with a full occupancy last year.

"Tourism has been badly affected. We have lost 50 per cent of our tourism business... things are deteriorating," he said.

"The fear of tourists is exaggerated, but it is still an understandable fear. I don't blame them. They are targeting tourists."

The government has boosted security measures by assigning well-trained police troops to protect tourist spots and hotels. Secret police cars patrol the streets of tourist villages.

## Hong Kong stocks smash 6,000 barrier

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong's key stock market index soared through 6,000 points Monday, propelled by speculation that China is ready to start discussing the colony's political future after months of acrimonious deadlock.

The blue-chip Hang Seng index surged more than 200 points in afternoon trading before slipping slightly to close up 191.29 points, 3.27 per cent, at 6,049.44.

Brokers said the scramble began after local newspapers reported that Peking, which resumed sovereignty in 1997, was ready to drop its demand that governor Chris Patten must scrap his democratic reform proposals before any talks can begin.

Monday's close was the first time the index had risen over 6,000 since Nov. 17 last year as Peking stepped up a ferocious

campaign to force Mr. Patten into submission.

The reports, all in Chinese-language newspapers, met with a string of official "no comments" from both sides but no denials.

With Hong Kong's overall economy still buoyant despite the row, buyers jumped back in.

"Investors had been waiting for a breakthrough to buy into a market of sound fundamentals," said Eugene Law, head of research at DBS Securities. "The reports were just taken as the breakthrough, although they are yet to be confirmed."

## Somalia's economy surfaces again from desert sands

MOGADISHU (R) — One of a handful of new-looking cars negotiates the ruined streets of Mogadishu, where imported cigarettes have now almost miraculously appeared at stalls.

The economy of this Horn of Africa country, destroyed by civil war and famine, is coming out of hiding.

In the case of the cars, and some stores of consumer goods, it is literally rising from the desert sands, now that the U.S. troops are keeping the warlords in check.

"The new cars that you see in the streets these days had been buried in the sand by their owners during the war, fearing that they would be looted," said Abdi Aden, a longtime resident.

"Some people even damaged their cars deliberately by removing their windows and lights to prevent looting," he said.

If you want Kenyan-made Embassy or Sportsman cigarettes, you can get them. If you prefer more exotic international brands such as Rothmans or Benson Hedges, they are also available.

Further down the bombed-out roads and streets of Mogadishu you can now buy rice, imported bottled drinking water and other "luxuries."

Two hotels have reopened and a few new-looking cars sweep through the dusty avenues.

Many of Somalia's six million people are outside the areas to which a U.S.-led task force has restored some semblance of order.

order, and vast numbers in that area are destitute refugees.

But in the safest areas the indomitable business spirit of these northeast African traders famed for selling camels and livestock is slowly relaunching a collapsed economy.

"These people will sell you anything... they are very adept at getting business back on its feet," said a French official who has been working here since December, when the multinational force was deployed in Somalia to end gun law.

"When I first arrived in Mogadishu just two months ago, everything had collapsed — the water system, electricity, telephones and the government."

"You couldn't even speak of a subsistence economy then as most residents were afraid to move around the streets. But look now — they are filled with people, busy buying or selling this or that," he said.

Even in times of peace Somalia's economy was rudimentary, dependent on livestock exports and foreign aid.

Guerrilla war between rebels and army troops of dictator Mohammed Siad Barre in the 1980s was costly. Western donors, taking a tougher line on human rights in the post-cold war era, cut off aid and the economy crumbled.

Siad Barre's ouster in 1991 plunged Somalia into new depths of agony and despair as rebels competing for power looted and plundered anything they found.

Mohammad Sharif, a 22-year-old driver, told Reuters: "When you look at what has happened, it is clear that a bad government is better than no government at all."

"Look at what the fighting has done to my country," he added resignedly, surveying the bullet-scarred houses and buildings of what used to be Mogadishu.

The uneasy calm that has followed the arrival of the 37,000-strong multinational force, most of it American, has spurred the Somalis to open numerous little food shops in Mogadishu and other main cities.

"We thank the Americans and all troops from other countries who came to our rescue. I am now able to run my business again," said Mohammad Farah, who owns a car-parts shop.

Abdi Aden, a Mogadishu resident of many years, said more enterprising Somalis were buying television sets from neighbouring Djibouti to sell to people who wanted to watch video films at home.

The United Nations, which mandated the deployment of the 23-nation Somalia force, says it will help with the country's reconstruction but Somalis themselves must take the lead.

"We are ready to help with the reconstruction of social and economic infrastructure which was totally destroyed... but the Somalis themselves must take responsibility to run their lives," said Ismat Kittani, U.N. special envoy for Somalia, this week.

## Jordanians, Saudis team up on waste disposal

IRBID (Petra) — Teachers and specialists at Jordanian and Saudi Arabian universities are combining their efforts to work out programmes on safe disposal of dangerous waste, similar to programmes adopted by advanced nations, according to Ibrahim Alen, head of a visiting delegation from Saudi Arabia's King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals.

Dr. Alen said in a meeting in Irbid that King Fahd University and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) are jointly spearheading the endeavour to benefit the Arab World.

Dr. Alen met with JUST President Kamel Ajlouni and discussed cooperation in safeguarding the environment and disposing of dangerous and chemical waste.

He said the visit to JUST came as part of ongoing consultations between the two universities.

The visit also follows the Saudi delegation's tour of several centres in the United States and the United Kingdom which handle harmful waste.

## Norway raises oil, gas reserve estimate by 12%

OSLO (R) — Norway, Europe's top oil producer, has raised its estimate of oil and gas reserves by 12 per cent and said at current rates it could keep pumping oil for the next 45 years.

The state-run Norwegian Petroleum Directorate said the country had offshore resources equivalent to 10 billion tonnes of oil under the Norwegian continental shelf, up from about nine billion estimated previously.

Ten billion tonnes is about 75 billion barrels — worth \$1.4 trillion at current oil prices and a fantastic wealth for a nation of just 4.3 million people.

Norway's economy has become increasingly dependent on oil since production began in 1971.

"The expected amount for total Norwegian petroleum resources has risen by about 12 per cent compared to previous estimates," the directorate said in a statement.

Norway has so far extracted about 1.13 billion tonnes of oil, or 11 per cent of the expected recoverable total.

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### Financial Jordan Times

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 15/2/93	Tokyo Close 15/2/93
Sterling Pound	1.4205	1.4115
Deutsche Mark	1.6604	1.6617
Swiss Franc	1.5345	1.5470
French Franc	5.6165	5.6165 **
Japanese Yen	120.68	121.15
European Currency Unit	1.1740	1.1721 **

USD per JLD, European Currencies to 100 JLD, U.S. Dollar

Barter Interest Rates Date: 15/2/93

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.12	3.18	3.31	3.68
Sterling Pound	5.93	6.13	5.75	5.63
Deutsche Mark	5.50	5.57	7.67	7.18
Swiss Franc	5.50	5.37	5.18	5.06
French Franc	11.75	11.75	10.75	9.50
Japanese Yen	3.12	3.21	3.18	3.18
European Currency Unit	9.52	9.50	9.12	8.62

Interbank bid rates for deposits exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Previous Metals Date: 15/2/93

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
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21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 15/2/93

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.693	0.695
Sterling Pound	0.9773	0.9822
Deutsche Mark	0.4100	0.4157
Swiss Franc	0.4472	0.4494
French Franc	0.1231	0.1237
Japanese Yen	0.5713	0.5742
Swedish Krona	0.0921	0.0926
Italian Lira	0.0448	0.0450
Belgian Franc	0.02021	0.02031

Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 15/2/93

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.6155	1.6310
Lebanese Lira	0.03653	0.04088
Saudi Riyal	0.1645	0.1853
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2250	2.2900
Qatari Riyal	0.1676	0.1889
Egyptian Pound	0.1950	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7650	1.7860
UAE Dirham	0.1878	0.1889
Greek Drachma	0.31357	0.32595
Cypriot Pound	1.3860	1.4015

Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	15/2/93 Close	14/2/93 Close
All-Share	195.33	195.15
Banking Sector	137.40	137.12
Insurance Sector	214.58	214.80
Industry Sector	275.10	275.29
Services Sector	259.62	258.28

December 31, 1992 Jan

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One U.S. dollar	1.2545/50	Canadian dollar	1.6590/600
	1.8675/85	Deutschmarks	1.5438/48
	34.24/28	Dutch guilders	1549/1551
	5.6110/60	Swiss francs	121.13/18
	7.4950/5050	Belgian francs	7.0500/600
	6.3550/650	French francs	1.4145/55
		Italian lire	
		Japanese yen	
		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
One sterling	\$328.30/328.80		
One ounce of gold			

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Robert De Niro & Nick Nolte in

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**Nabil Al Hashimi Theatre**

Tuesday January 5th marks the opening of the new theatre season presenting:

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Daily at 8:30 p.m.

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Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Free Car Parking

**Cinema PLAZA Tel.: 699238**

**Basic Instinct**

Starring: Michael Douglas and Sharon Stone

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

**Nabil & Hisham's AHLAN THEATRE Tel.: 625155**

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**"Welcome New World Order — 93"**

a political comedy review

Daily, except for Saturdays & Sundays at 8:30 p.m.

Matinee on Thursdays at 4:30 p.m.

Box office open daily



## U.N. tries to get convoy to starving Bosnian Muslims

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. negotiators tried Monday to persuade rebel Serbs to allow a convoy through their lines to take emergency aid to starving Muslims in eastern Bosnia.

The Muslim-led Bosnian government and leaders of the Serbs have agreed to a ceasefire to let the 10 trucks through.

But a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Belgrade said local Serb commanders were insisting that they had not received permission to let the convoy pass.

She said negotiators were attempting to get Serb agreement for the trucks to reach the Cerska area, where the UNHCR estimates as many as 25,000 Muslims are trapped.

They are among tens of thousands of Muslims cut off in eastern Bosnia since civil war broke out in the former Yugoslav republic last March.

The convoy set out from Belgrade Sunday but had to spend the night in the Serbian frontier after it was turned back at roadblocks manned by Bosnian Serbs.

The Bosnian government has protested at the UNHCR's failure to reach the Muslims in the east by refusing to accept U.N. aid for the besieged capital, Sarajevo.

If the convoy gets through the UNHCR plans to send another to the area in a week.

Mortar, machinegun and small-arms fire erupted in the south of snow-covered Sarajevo at dawn but died down later.

The Muslim-controlled radio in the capital said occasional shells landed during the morning.

The Belgrade-based news agency Tanjug said Bosnian government forces had used mortars, multiple-rocket launchers and machineguns in an attack on Serb-held Ilidza, close to Sarajevo airport, in the early hours of the morning.

Sarajevo Radio reported fighting in other parts of Bosnia, including shelling and heavy sniper fire at Muslim-held Gradacac, 120 kilometres north of Sarajevo.

The snow around Sarajevo has hampered efforts to repair the city's war-damaged power lines by covering land-mines. It has also helped delivery of UNHCR relief supplies outside the capital.

Tanjug quoted rebel Serb forces in the Krajina enclave in Croatia as saying they had repelled attacks by Croatian troops in a series of artillery and tank battles.

Goran Hadzic, president of the self-proclaimed Serb republic in the Krajina area of Croatia, left Monday for talks in New York with international peace mediators Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance.

Croatian leaders were also due to go to New York.

But Mr. Hadzic has made it clear the Serbs will not give up their demands for an independent state carved out of Croatia.

"We are going to New York to explain that we cannot live together with the Croats," he said Sunday.

Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, was quoted by Tanjug as saying in a television interview that plans for a referendum on union between the Bosnian and Croatian Serbs had been put off for the time being.

But Mr. Karadzic said that if U.N. peacekeepers moved out of Krajina, leaving it open for Croatian troops to move in, the proposals would be revived.



A Serb refugee consoles her grandson in a school in the Serb enclave of Krajina. Croat and Serb secessionist forces continued to trade artillery fire Sunday around Zadar, along Croatia's Adriatic coast (AFP photo)

"If the United Nations should pull out its peacekeepers, then the situation would be radically different and we would go ahead with our plans for the union," he said.

In a separate development, Serb police in Kosovo province have stepped up efforts to drive ethnic Albanians from the ancient Serb heartland of Pec, residents and foreign observers say.

An increase in police summons, beatings and nighttime raids appears linked to the success of radical Serb nationalists in recent elections, they say.

"We believe the terrible abuses are part of a policy to make life so unpleasant for Albanians as to force them to leave Kosovo," said British peer Lord Rea, who led five European parliamentarians and a Canadian deputy visiting Kosovo last week.

Ethnic Albanians make up about 85 per cent of the 1.9 million people in this poor southern Serbian province that borders Albania proper. But about 350,000 ethnic Albanians are said to have fled since Serbia revoked Kosovo's limited autonomy in 1989 and imposed direct rule from Belgrade.

## Cambodian army is on offensive against Khmer Rouge

PHNOM PENH (R) — Phnom Penh troops are pressing home an offensive against Khmer Rouge guerrillas in strife-torn central Cambodia in violation of a ceasefire, a U.N. peacekeeping official said Monday.

"Continuing with the ceasefire violations that they have been responsible for over the past few weeks, CPAF (Phnom Penh army) forces are continuing to press forward in the province of Kompong Thom," said a spokesman for the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

A 22,000-strong multinational U.N. force in Cambodia to help prevent fighting and prepare for elections in late May.

"Since last Friday, CPAF has consolidated areas won back from the NADK (the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, or Khmer Rouge) and has applied further pressure on Sakream," the spokesman said.

Sakream, about 50-60 kilometres north of Kompong Thom town, is the headquarters of the Khmer Rouge's Regiment 616.

The Khmer Rouge, ousted from power in 1979 after a brutal four-year rule, have refused to abide by a Paris peace agreement between all four Cambodian factions, the basis of the U.N.-sponsored peace process.

Fighting and a wave of politically motivated violence directed primarily against the main opposition parties has thwarted one of UNTAC's main aims, to secure peaceful conditions for voting.

U.N. military headquarters have described fighting this year, mainly around Battambang province in the northwest, as the worst ceasefire violations since the peacekeepers arrived last March.

The U.N. spokesman said Monday that Phnom Penh's forces appeared to have captured several small villages in Kompong Thom and pushed to within two kilometres of guerrilla-held Krakra, another key insurgent area.

Despite continued unrest, more than 300,000 Cambodian refugees have returned from camps in the past few weeks, according to U.N. figures.

"The number of Cambodians who have returned to the country as part of a joint U.N. Nations, UNHCR (U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees) programme today exceeded 300,000 people," the spokesman said.

More than 99 per cent of the refugees had returned from seven camps along the Thai-Cambodian frontier, he said.

The number included almost 2,000 Cambodians who formerly lived in refugee camps in Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia.

All 370,000 Cambodian refugees are expected to be repatriated by the end of March, a year after the huge operation began.

Japan has authorised a request by UNTAC military commander Lieutenant-General John Sander for its engineers to help build bunkers and communications trenches for the French Foreign Legion in Chhuk, a small town in Kampot province in the south.

## Angola reports gains in Huambo battle; 6,000 dead

LUANDA (R) — The Angolan government said Monday it had regained ground from UNITA rebels in the decisive battle for the second city of Huambo but at least 6,000 civilians had died in more than a month of fighting.

Diplomats said the government's position was precarious and they believed the rebels still controlled large parts of the smashed city.

"The government will need to regain a lot of ground to prevent UNITA from taking control," said one Western diplomat.

Fighting was raging around the governor's palace and army installations, the government said.

More than 6,000 civilians were killed in the five weeks of combat and those who remained were short of food and water, it said.

Hundreds of bodies were littering the streets, military officials in Huambo said on state-run radio Sunday.

There was no independent confirmation of the reports but foreign aid officials believe the death toll is in the thousands.

Angolan military sources said both sides had sent reinforcements to the central highland city, which has been pounded to rubble in many parts. Fighter planes took off from Luanda at the weekend towards Huambo.

State-run media Monday reported government claims that Zaireans and South Africans were helping UNITA. A South African company had rented three DC-3 planes to UNITA, it said.

The battle for Huambo, former headquarters of UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola), is the most significant in the civil war which resumed after rebel chief Jonas Savimbi rejected his defeat in elections in September and began to expel local authorities from 75 per cent of the country.

The war has resumed with unprecedented intensity, turning several cities into ghost towns and displacing hundreds of thousands of people.

International aid organisations say they are unable to reach the worst stricken areas. UNITA has rejected a U.N. proposal for a brief truce in Huambo so that food and medicine can be rushed to thousands of wounded civilians.

The United Nations has failed to revive May 1991 peace accords which ended 16 years of war between UNITA and the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) government, ruler of Angola since independence from Portugal in 1975.

Talks in Addis Ababa in late January failed to produce a ceasefire. UNITA cancelled a second round planned for Feb. 10 on the grounds that its delegation had not returned to Angola. UNITA refuses to set a new date.

Many diplomats believe Mr. Savimbi wants control of Huambo before negotiating. Then he will seek a power-sharing agreement, a notion rejected until now by the MPLA, which was legitimately elected.

Peace accord observers Portugal, Russia and the United States demand UNITA agree to a new date by Wednesday night. But diplomats admitted they had little clout.

## Thyssen art collection to stay in Spain

BARCELONA (R) — Swiss financier Baron Hans-Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza has said he is on the point of agreement with the government for his multi-million dollar art collection to stay in Spain for good. The collection of 800 works, including paintings by Titoretto, Rubens, El Greco, Caravaggio, Goya, Van Gogh, Monet and Picasso, is on display in a specially restored 18th century palace in Madrid.

Baron Thyssen told reporters in Barcelona Friday he expected final agreement for the masterpieces to stay in Spain to be reached "in a month or two." He gave no details of the price Spain would pay to keep the collection, but officials involved in negotiations said the deal would be a mixture of sale and gift, with the government giving guarantees on maintenance and conservation.

## Ex-wife to get more than \$7 million of lottery winnings

MARIETTA, Ga. (AP) — A woman who fought for half of her husband's lottery fortune in a divorce battle will receive more than \$7 million after the judge ruled the man "financially irresponsible." Paul Cooney won a \$21 million lottery jackpot in 1989, to be paid in 20 annual installments of \$1,035,000. After winning the money, he accumulated \$2.6 million in debt from bad business deals. Donna Marie Cooney, 30, will get one third of the lottery proceeds for the next six years and half the proceeds for the remaining 14 years, or \$7,245,000 before taxes. Superior Court Judge Robert E. Flournoy Jr. ruled. Mr. Cooney's pre-tax share over the 16 year period will be \$9,315,000. He will bear the \$2.6 million debt alone.

## Keating warns of industrial war if opposition win

SYDNEY (R) — Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating intensified his attack on the Conservative opposition Monday, predicting "industrial war" and soaring inflation and interest rates if they won the March 13 election.

Polis showed the race closer than ever and political commentators judged opposition leader John Hewson the narrow winner of Sunday's television debate.

Mr. Keating told a business conference that industrial anarchy would result from a plan by the Liberal-National Party coalition to abolish industry awards in favour of enterprise bargaining.

"In the factories and mines and construction projects of this country you will see industrial last resort...if we had to we would," Mr. Keating said.

but more militant.

"It is no accident that the question of industrial relations will be crucial in the forthcoming election."

Industrial relations were tipped as a major issue before the election was announced but until now unemployment, child care and business investment have grabbed the headlines.

However a question to Mr. Hewson during Sunday night's debate gave the Labour government the opportunity to attack what it believes is one of the opposition's weak points.

Asked if he would still "put troops on the waterfront" to achieve trade union reform, as he suggested a few years ago, Mr. Hewson said: "As an absolute last resort...if we had to we would."

## Regional election defeat alarms Japan ruling party

TOKYO (R) — Japan's new anti-corruption party has won a prize in the ruling party's rural heartland, setting off alarm bells ahead of key Tokyo municipal elections — and a likely general election — later this year.

Final returns Monday showed that the Japan New Party (JNP) candidate, supported by the Socialists and rebels within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), won the election in Yamagata, northern Japan, by a margin of 40,000 votes.

"We see this as a big turning point," a JNP spokesman said.

"This is the start of a drastic change in Japanese politics, particularly because it happened in the Liberal Democrats' stronghold. We thank the people of Yamagata for their courage."

It is the first time in more than two decades that the LDP, rulers of Japan since 1955, has lost the governorship of Yamagata, an underdeveloped, rice-growing region heavily dependent on subsidies from Tokyo.

"We were unable to achieve party unity," a story-faced Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told reporters in parliament.

Demoralised in the past six months by a damning money-and-mobsters scandal involving its leaders, the LDP failed to agree on a single, unified candidate in Yamagata.

Instead, four conservatives, all with past affiliation with the LDP, stood for the governorship. The LDP national and prefectural leadership backed the wrong horse.

## Talking word processors aim at livelier office

TOKYO (R) — From the country that gave the world karaoke comes the latest in responsive machines — word processors that talk back. They bark when you write "dog," moo when you write "cow" and make the sound of pouring from a bottle when you write "beer." If you choose to recall a text file word-by-word at reading speed, the machines will repeat these and 26 other pre-programmed noises, from sleigh bells to sirens, as the words come up. The word processors, models of which go on sale in Japan next week at 170,000 yen (\$1,360) and 285,000 yen (\$2,280), even shout warnings at users when they try to switch them off without saving the contents of a file. Toshiba said the talking machines are aimed at a new range of users like students and young office workers who want more fun from their writing equipment.

## Food ads affect children's eating, U.K. study finds

LONDON (R) — Food manufacturers have successfully used television to change the way children eat, a British consumer report said. The Consumers' Association report found that heavily advertised foods are not just bought as treats but make up a large proportion of the average child's diet. Advertisements for fatty, sugary food far outnumber healthy eating messages and children ask for the products they see promoted, the report said. It said a child who watched British commercial television for an hour after school and all Saturday morning would see 92 advertisements per week for food and drink — a rate of nearly 10 an hour. "Food companies have an interest in catching consumers young. In their eyes, your kids are an expanding market," David Dickinson, editor of the association's magazine, which published the report, said. British companies spent more than \$460 million (\$660 million) advertising food and soft drinks on television in 1990.

## Poor burn money to keep warm in Dublin

DUBLIN (R) — The poor are burning money to keep warm in Dublin. Old banknotes declared redundant by Ireland's Central Bank have been compressed to make briquettes of fuel for the needy. Hundreds of thousands of punt banknotes have been donated by the bank to a charity which then shreds them and distributes up to 2,000 briquettes a week.

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### China department store fire kills 79

PEKING (R) — A fire which tore through a Chinese department store and killed 79 people Sunday was blamed on lax workers doing electrical welding, another sign safety standards are falling victim to China's economic boom. The official Xinhua News Agency Monday briefly reported Sunday's disaster, one of the deadliest fires to strike China in recent years. The agency said the fire ripped through the three-storey Linxi Department Store in the northeastern city of Tangshan during peak shopping hours Sunday afternoon, transforming the store into an inferno. A Tangshan City Fire Department official contacted by telephone said a total of 79 people were killed by the blaze and another 51 were injured. The fire in the industrial city east of Peking broke out at about 1:15 p.m. Sunday, and quickly consumed the store in one of the city's largest shopping areas, he said.

#### Brazuskas elected Lithuanian president

VILNIUS (AP) — Lithuanians voting in their first popular presidential election chose former Communist Party leader Algirdas Brazuskas by an overwhelming margin, election officials said Monday. With all the votes counted, election commission officials said Mr. Brazuskas had 60.1 per cent (1,210,517 votes) to 30.1 per cent (767,345 votes) for challenger Stevas Lozoraitis. The remaining were invalid ballots. Election officials said 70.6 per cent of Lithuania's 2.6 million registered voters went to the polls in Sunday's election. Parliament made Mr. Brazuskas acting president last fall as former Communists returned to power in a voter backlash. The two candidates waged a gentlemanly campaign. On election eve, their aides even played a friendly game of basketball. (Mr. Brazuskas' side won 38-28.) "We have passed a test for democracy. The election took place in a civilised way," Mr. Brazuskas said after the returns were in.

#### Ghali arrives in Japan

TOKYO (R) — U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali arrived in Japan Monday to secure Tokyo's backing for his plan to strengthen the world body and its global peacekeeping activities. Dr. Ghali is to meet Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Emperor Akihito Tuesday. The secretary-general is also slated to deliver three policy speeches and officially open the new headquarters of the United Nations University in Tokyo. Like his January trip to Germany, Dr. Ghali's visit to Japan takes place amid signs that the United Nations will soon take steps to reflect an international power balance radically changed from the late 1940s when the U.N. was founded. In his talks with the secretary-general, Mr. Miyazawa was expected to advance Japan's bid for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

#### Japan foreign minister taken ill

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, just home from a gruelling four-day trip to Washington, fell sick in parliament Monday and was taken to hospital, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Mr. Watanabe, 69, who is also deputy prime minister, was suffering from a cold and overwork, the spokesman said. Mr. Watanabe, considered Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's closest rival, underwent gall bladder surgery in 1992 and appeared to take a long time to convalesce. Although he has recently regained weight, he was reported still in poor health. The earthy, plain-talking politician had an exhausting schedule in Washington, jousting with President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher on sharp bilateral trade tensions and policy towards China and Russia. Returning to Tokyo late Sunday, he was back in parliament Monday morning to take part in a committee session.

#### Tabloid apologises to Queen Elizabeth

LONDON (AP) — The Sun newspaper made a front-page apology to Queen Elizabeth II, who is suing the tabloid for publishing her Christmas message two days early. In its early editions, Monday's Sun also said the newspaper would donate £200,000 (\$204,000) to the Save The Children charity, of which the Queen's daughter, Princess Anne, is patron. It was not immediately clear if that would satisfy the queen. A Buckingham Palace spokesman said the Queen's lawyers had received a telephone call from the Sun and that "any proposals...will be looked at carefully but in the meantime the matter remains with the solicitors." The decision to apologise came from the Sun's publisher Rupert Murdoch, Assistant Editor Chris Davis said Sunday night. "It is Mr. Rupert Murdoch who feels we should make this handsome and gracious gesture. It has been discussed at the very highest level." On Tuesday the Sun had said it intended to fight the lawsuit in court.

## Yeltsin abandons Kremlin struggle for holiday

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, faced with a growing challenge to his power by conservative rivals, left Moscow unexpectedly Monday for what a spokesman called a 12-day holiday at a country villa.

A presidential spokesman said Mr. Yeltsin, who has a record of disappearing from the public eye at decisive moments, was relaxing at a dacha just outside Moscow. All meetings with foreign visitors had been officially rescheduled from his schedule.

"Yeltsin's health is fine, though he is tired after a heavy schedule over the last two weeks," a spokesman said.

The president, who recently celebrated his 62nd birthday, had been due to meet parliamentary chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov in the Kremlin Tuesday for a second round of talks intended to resolve a growing constitutional crisis.

The spokesman said Mr. Yeltsin had planned his break for some time but made a final decision Friday morning, hours after his first meeting with Mr. Khasbulatov ended in deadlock.

"The (Tuesday) meeting between Khasbulatov and Yeltsin is the business of the two men. Yeltsin might contact Khasbulatov and meet him as agreed," the spokesman said.

"But the meeting may also be postponed," he added.

Mr. Yeltsin has on several occasions withdrawn from the public gaze at crucial times, prompting speculation over his health.

He disappeared for several days during a crucial meeting of Russia's supreme legislature last spring. He also cancelled several days of appointments, including an important meeting with Japan's foreign minister, at short notice last May.

Mr. Yeltsin had been expected to meet French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas Tuesday.

"This seems an unlikely time to take a holiday," one foreign diplomat commented. "He can stay in touch with the Kremlin from out there, but experience shows there's no substitute for being on the spot."

Mr. Yeltsin has met strong resistance from many quarters over the last week to his plans for a constitutional referendum. Even leaders of Russia's semi-autonomous regions, or republics, who have backed him in the past, said the vote could stir trouble.

Commonwealth Television's news digest programme Itogi, reviewing the week's events, said Sunday Mr. Yeltsin now appeared deserted over the issue.

The president had hoped the referendum would give him popular support to break the power of a central and regional legislatures that opposes his radical economic reforms.

If the poll is called off, as seems likely, he must seek another way of breaking their hold on government or accept a second humiliation in two months.

## After years of confinement, Aung San Suu Kyi still inspires Burmese

BANGKOK (AP) — Confined to her house by soldiers for 3 1/2 years, Aung San Suu Kyi still fires the Burmese people's hopes for a peaceful end to decades of authoritarian oppression.

This week in Thailand, seven Nobel Peace Prize laureates are gathering to press for the release of Mrs. Suu Kyi, who won the 1991 prize for what the Awards Committee called "one of the most extraordinary examples of civil courage in Asia in recent decades."

Last month, when Burma's military junta convened a constitutional conference it described as a move toward democracy, dissidents exiled in Thailand called it a sham and staged protest rallies, brandishing portraits of Mrs. Suu Kyi.

In Burma, where open dissent can be dangerous, her name is whispered reverently and sometimes her picture is seen in homes hanging next to golden statues of Buddha.

Acknowledging its own fearful brand of respect, the junta indicated last month that Mrs. Suu Kyi's detention may be indefinite because freeing her could cause political instability. It deferred a decision on her release to the next government.

The generals say they won't cede power to a civilian government until the new constitution is drafted, but has not said how long that would take. The junta refused to recognise the 1990 election in which it was badly beaten by Mrs. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy even though she already was in detention.

House arrest has almost completely separated Mrs. Suu Kyi, 47, from the outside world, including her British husband and two sons.

Little has been heard of her but what does filter out indicates an unbroken spirit. The junta has offered freedom if she leaves the country — an option she refuses to discuss.

"She gets no regular medical attention and refuses any favours from the regime...as a means of bringing pressure on them," her husband, Oxford University scholar Michael Aris, said last November. He said she has been forced to sell furniture to buy food.

She won't even accept help from her family. Prof. Aris had planned to take her food and books over Christmas, but received a brief message from her asking him not to come.

"Things have not been easy for her," Prof. Aris said on another occasion. "But she pointed out that others have suffered far more."

Last May, she sent a speech accepting a U.S. human rights award, her first public statement since detention began.

Possibly referring to recent reforms by the junta, she said reconciliation "goes beyond token gestures of appeasement." She called for respect for human rights and for the will of the people as expressed in the election.

"I have never doubted the ability of the people of my country to bring about these and other desirable changes once national reconciliation has been achieved," she said.

Mrs. Suu Kyi is a slim, almost frail looking woman, with a graceful and dignified presence, her name means: a bright collection of strange victories.

She was born in Rangoon but was travelled widely abroad. She graduated from Oxford and worked at the U.N. Headquarters in New York.

She returned to the capital in 1988 to nurse her ailing mother. By coincidence, the largest anti-



Aung San Suu Kyi

government demonstrations in Burma's history were exploding on the streets nationwide.

Mrs. Suu Kyi commanded attention because she is the daughter of Aung San, the revered, assassinated leader of Burma's drive for independence from British colonialism.

She seized the moment, fearlessly criticising the generals as soldiers were shooting dead hundreds, if not thousands, of demonstrators.

"The present crisis is the concern of the entire nation," she

told a mass rally. "I could not, as my father's daughter, remain indifferent to all that was going on. This national crisis could, in fact, be called the second struggle for independence."

Mrs. Suu Kyi consistently championed non-violence and change through dialogue but her appeals have been completely rejected. After silencing her in the two-story house by Inya Lake, the junta has quieted the streets through intimidation and arrests and decimated the organised movement she led.